



Association of
Ontario **Midwives**
Delivering what matters.

June 14, 2019

Tiffany Haidon, President
College of Midwives of Ontario
55 St. Clair Ave. W., Suite 812, Box 27
Toronto, ON M4V 2Y7

Dear Tiffany:

Re: Use of oxytocin

We are aware that a large group of head midwives from across the province signed and sent a letter to the CMO on June 3, 2019. We write you in support of that letter. As stated in our position statement (<https://www.ontariomidwives.ca/maintaining-primary-care>), the AOM believes that midwives maintaining primary care for induction and augmentation keeps birth normal, enhances continuity of care, reduces medically-unnecessary transfers of care, ensures client safety, maximizes efficient use of health care resources, and fosters inter-professional relationships and respect.

The AOM supports removing the restriction on midwives administering oxytocin thus enabling midwives to manage oxytocin induction and augmentation on their own responsibility as they have the knowledge, skills, and judgement to do so. As articulated in the letter from head midwives:

If midwives are truly to be seen as autonomous self-regulated primary care providers who can provide high quality care and continuity to our clients, it does not seem to make sense to place barriers that would delay access to appropriate interventions for otherwise low risk patients, who require oxytocin augmentation or induction (i.e. term PROM, post-dates, slow progress in labour).

It is well known that unnecessary transfers of care can lead to errors in care and jeopardize client safety. As stated in the head midwives letter:

There is good evidence from Ontario midwifery researchers that outcomes for low risk patients whose midwives manage oxytocin augmentation and induction are as good as those for patients managed under physician care, while resulting in fewer interventions (Elderhorst et al, JOGC November 2018).

In the interest of client safety, quality, person-centred care, informed choice and the efficient use of health care resources, we lend our support to the head midwives and to this issue. We are happy to discuss this further and to answer any questions you may have.

Yours truly,

Elizabeth Brandeis, RM, President

Cc: Kelly Dobbin, CEO & Registrar, CMO
Kelly Stadelbauer, Executive Director, AOM
Allyson Booth, Director Quality and Risk Management, AOM