[Please print on your clinic letterhead and format appropriately]

*[Date]*

*[Insert name and address of Insurance company/employer]*

I recently became aware that (*insert name of insurance company*) is not accepting my professional opinion in relation to [*the confirmation of [client's name]'s pregnancy/[client’s name] medical need for compression stockings/massage therapy treatment…in pregnancy*].

On [*insert date of original letter or certificate*], I signed a letter for my client, [*name of client*] outlining her expected date of birth for the purpose of parental leave benefits.

OR

On [*insert date of original letter, prescription, or certificate*], I prescribed [*compression stockings, a breast pump, massage therapy treatment…]* to my client, [*name of client*] for [*provide brief clinical rational, eg. varicose veins in pregnancy, sciatic pain in pregnancy, breastfeeding difficulties*…

As a Registered Midwife in Ontario, I am the most responsible care provider in relation to [*client’s name*] pregnancy. I am writing to support [*client name*]’s insurance claim and to ensure that you understand my role as their primary care provider during this pregnancy, and the role of the midwifery profession in providing care for families in Ontario.

Midwives are primary care providers for women. Midwifery care is fully funded by the Ministry of Health. In Ontario, a person can either choose to see a midwife or a physician as their primary care provider for pregnancy, labour and birth and six weeks following the birth of the baby.

One of the conditions of professional practice is for midwives to have professional liability insurance, which they receive from the Health Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC). Midwives prescribe certain medications as per the *Midwifery Act*, 1991 (S.O. 1991, Chapter 31). Service Canada accepts certificate signed by midwives confirming pregnancy and for unemployment insurance related to pregnancy.

A midwife is perfectly qualified to confirm a pregnancy [or prescribe a particular treatment/device for a client]. The College of Midwives of Ontario, the profession's regulatory body, has very clear guidelines for when a midwife must consult or transfer care to a physician. Once care is transferred, it is most appropriate for the physician to be responsible for providing written documentation for an insurance company in relation to a high risk condition. Unless and until this happens, a midwife is the most appropriate care provider to write medical certificates and prescriptions.

As [*client's name*]'s primary care provider, I am able to give the most informed assessment on [*client's name*]'s pregnancy and related health needs. I look forward to working with [*name of insurance company]* to ensure that my client receives the benefits she needs during this important stage in her life. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

With best regards,

[*midwife’s name and registration number]*

For more information on midwifery in Ontario:

The Association of Ontario Midwives: [www.ontariomidwives.ca](file:///C:\Users\policymanager\AppData\Local\Temp\www.ontariomidwives.ca)

The College of Midwives of Ontario: [www.cmo.on.ca](http://www.cmo.on.ca)