

IMPACT OF CURRENT REGULATIONS FOR MIDWIFERY ORDERING AND PRESCRIBING

ACROSS A PREGNANCY TIMELINE

T1 = First trimester
T2 = Second trimester
T3 = Third trimester
PP = Postpartum

ER = Emergency room
MD = Physician
NP = Nurse Practitioner

Early pregnancy loss

Able to order ultrasound and bloodwork to diagnose pregnancy loss, but unable to prescribe medication for management.

T1

VISIT TO ER OR MD/NP

VISIT TO MD/NP OR GENETIC COUNSELLOR

T1

Genetic testing

Unable to order Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) for clients.

Thyroid screening

Unable to order TSH/T3/T4 for clients who have risk factors or symptoms requiring thyroid function testing.

T1

VISIT TO MD/NP OR WALK-IN

VISIT TO ER OR MD/NP

T 1&2

Nausea and vomiting

Unable to prescribe many antiemetics commonly used for NVP.

STI treatment

Able to order screening but not prescribe necessary medication to treat STIs.

T 1-3

VISIT TO MD/NP, WALK-IN OR SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC*

VISIT TO MD/NP OR WALK-IN

T 1-3

UTI treatment

Limited antibiotic prescribing options leads to sub-optimal treatment or referral for treatment.

Routine vaccination

Unable to order or administer NACI recommended vaccinations (influenza, TDaP, Covid-19).

T3

VISIT TO MD/NP OR WALK-IN*

VISIT TO MD/NP OR WALK-IN

T3

Heartburn management

Unable to prescribe medication (e.g., PPIs) for heartburn not resolved by OTC treatment.

Preterm labour

Unable to order fetal fibronectin (fFN) as part of preterm labour assessment.

T3

CONSULTATION WITH MD

VISIT TO MD/NP, WALK-IN OR SEXUAL HEALTH CLINIC*

PP

Contraception

Unable to order contraceptives. Clients in postpartum period are at risk for unplanned pregnancy.

* Visits to additional providers for these services have been identified as at increased risk for low uptake or delays to accessing time-sensitive care.

NB: This is not an exhaustive list of the impact of current regulations on routine midwifery care. It represents some of the most common issues faced by midwives that directly impact client care, client experience and outcomes in routine pregnancy and postpartum.