



Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada / Santé Canada et l'Agence de la santé publique du Canada

# Revisions to the *Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care National Guidelines*


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## Revisions to the Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care National Guidelines

### Definition of Family-Centred Care

“Family-centred maternity and newborn care is a complex, multidimensional, dynamic process of providing safe, skilled, and individualized care. It responds to the physical, emotional and psychosocial needs of the woman and her family. In family-centred maternity and newborn care, pregnancy and birth are considered normal, healthy life events. As well, such care recognizes the significance of family support, participation and choice. In effect, family-centred maternity and newborn care reflects an attitude rather than a protocol” (Rush, 1997).



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### History


- National guidelines for maternal and newborn care have been published since 1968 and revised in 1974, 1987 and 2000.
- In 1987 the guidelines adapted the principle of family-centred care.

### Objective

- The *Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care (FCMNC) National Guidelines* aim to positively impact health from preconception to postpartum, and throughout the lifecourse of children, women and families.

### Purpose

- Healthcare providers, policy makers, program planners, administrators and families across Canada consult the guidelines for planning, implementing and evaluating maternal and newborn programs and services.




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### Revision Process

- An Oversight Committee guides the revision process. Members represent various professional organizations with a vested interest in maternal and newborn health.
- A content and literature review was conducted by the Canadian Institute of Child Health (CIH) to support the revisions.
- Chapter writing group members are chosen from a cross-section of disciplines relevant to the chapter topic.
- Keeping with the overarching family-centred approach, representatives from the Canadian Family-Advisory Network are members of each writing group.
- By completion of the writing process, almost 100 experts from various disciplines will have contributed.




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### Considerations

While revising the guidelines consideration will be given to many factors including:

- Various environments for care delivery – home, community, and hospital
- Strengths and limitations of technological developments
- Canada’s culturally diverse population
- Recognition of our responsibility to Aboriginal people
- The multifaceted nature of health care incorporating psychological, social, cultural and spiritual components of care in addition to biological health
- Changing nature of families
- Canada’s vast geographic and climatic challenges




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## Revisions to the Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care National Guidelines

### Next Steps

- Revisions to chapters will continue until 2016.
- Staggered chapter release should begin by end of 2014.
- A needs assessment will be conducted to investigate methods of dissemination that will optimize accessibility and distribution.
- A review and update cycle is under consideration to facilitate timely future revisions.

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