



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

ACCEPTING ORDERS FROM MIDWIVES

Practice FAQs

December 2012

QUESTION

At the hospital where I work, Midwives have been granted privileges to practice. If I attend a delivery at the request of a Midwife, may I accept orders to administer oxygen, CPAP and/or intubate and ventilate newborns?

ANSWER

Under the Respiratory Therapy Act, RTs may accept orders from Midwives who are Members of the College of Midwives of Ontario. It is likely that you have been asked to attend the delivery because of your scope of practice and role on the interprofessional team as determined by the place where you work. Please refer to the Professional Practice Guideline (PPG) [Interpretation of Authorized Acts](#) regarding from whom you may take orders from and what to do when your employers policies are more or less strict than the College's standards.

While the practice of other regulated health care professionals is governed by their own College, RTs are responsible and accountable to ensuring that their standards of practice are met (i.e., implementing orders for medical care (and/or medical directives) that are safe and in the best interest of the patients). If you are questioning or disagree with an order for medical care, you should seek clarification. Just because you have an order for medical care, does not mean that you should implement it. Be sure to carefully document your discussions, decisions and actions (or decision not to implement an order) according to the CRTO's standards of practice.

Here are some additional resources for your consideration:

- [Standards of Practice](#) (professional relationships p.14-15)
- PPG [Orders for Medical Care](#) (valid orders)
- PPG [Documentation](#) (what to do if you disagree with an order p.16)

Can I request assistance from other members of the health care team (e.g., the nurse and the paediatrician) if I need help during a high risk delivery?

YES! To be brief, "recognizing the competence of others and seeking their assistance as required" is a standard of practice for all RTs.



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- [Standards of Practice](#) (professional relationships p.14-15)
- Position Statement - [Scope of Practice and Maintenance of Competency](#)
- Article - [Roles and Scope Just Ask](#)
- FAQ – [Interprofessional Collaboration](#)