# Midwifery Practice Decisions Summary Guide

- **Identify client need/benefit**
  - Has there been a comprehensive assessment by the midwife to establish the woman or newborn’s needs or a group’s need for improved access to care?
  - Has there been appropriate consultation with the woman/her family/significant others?
  - Is the activity in the woman or newborn’s best interests?

- **Reflect on scope of practice and midwifery practice standards**
  - Is this activity within the scope of practice for midwifery?
  - Have legislative requirements (e.g., specific qualification needed) been met?
  - If authorisation by a regulatory authority is needed to perform the activity, does the person have it or can it be obtained prior to acting?
  - Will performance comply with midwifery practice standards/evidence?
  - If other health professionals should assist, supervise or perform the activity, are they available?

- **Consider context of practice/organisational support**
  - Is this activity/practice supported by the organisation?
  - If organisational authorisation is needed, does the person have it or can it be obtained before acting?
  - Is the skill mix in the organisation adequate for the level of support/supervision needed to safely perform the activity?
  - Have potential risks been identified and strategies to avoid or minimise them been identified and implemented?
  - Is there a system for ongoing education and maintenance of competence in place?
  - If this is a new practice:
    - Are there processes in place for maintaining performance into the future?
    - Have relevant parties been involved in planning for implementation?

- **Select appropriate, competent person to perform the activity**
  - Have the roles and responsibilities of midwives and non-midwives been considered?
  - Does the person who is to perform the activity have the knowledge, skill, authority and ability to do so either autonomously or with education, support and supervision?
  - Have all factors associated with delegation been considered?
  - Is the required level of education, supervision/support available?
  - Is the person confident and do they understand their accountability and reporting responsibilities in performing the activity?

### YES TO ALL
- **ACTION**
  - Proceed to:
    - perform the activity OR
    - delegate to a competent person
    - document the decision and the actions

### NO TO ANY
- **ACTION**
  - Consult/seek advice (unit manager, facility director, other health professional) OR
  - Refer/collaborate OR
  - Plan to enable integration/practice changes if appropriate (including developing/implementing policies, gaining qualifications as needed)

**EVALUATE**
- Document and evaluate and, if change still desired, commence process again

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*Note: the order in which these issues are considered may vary according to context.*