



## SCOPE OF PRACTICE

### 1 SCOPE

#### A. Services Rendered

The Doula accompanies the woman in labour, provides emotional and physical support, and suggestions for the partner. Whenever possible, the Doula provides pre and postnatal support, including explanation and discussion of practices and procedures, and assistance in acquiring the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions about her care additionally, Doulas do not “prescribe” treatment. Any suggestions of information provided within the role of the Doula must be done with the proviso that the Doula advise her client to check with her primary care provider before using any application.

#### B. Limits to Practice

The Doula does not perform clinical or medical tasks such as taking blood pressure or temperature, foetal heart tone checks, vaginal examinations or postnatal clinical care. WOMBS standards apply to emotional and physical support only.

#### C. Advocate

The Doula advocates for the client’s wishes as expressed in her birth plan, in prenatal conversations and intrapartum discussions. She helps the mother incorporate changes in plans if and when the need arises, and enhances communication between client and caregiver. Client and Doulas must recognise that the advocacy role does not include the Doula speaking on behalf of the client or making decisions for the client. The advocacy role is best described as support, information and mediation or negotiation.

### 2. CONTINUITY OF CARE

The Doula should make back-up arrangements with another Doula to ensure services to the client if the Doula is sick or unable to be reached. Should any Doula need to discontinue service to an established client, it

is the Doula’s responsibility to notify the client and arrange for a replacement, if the client so desires. This may be accomplished by introducing the client to the Doula’s back-up, suggestion that another member of WOMBS or another Doula may be more appropriate for the situation, or contacting the WOMBS regional representative for the names of other Doulas in the area.

### 3 TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

#### A. Training

Doulas who are certified by WOMBS have completed all the requirements as set forth in the WOMBS Requirements for Certification. This includes completing the training in childbirth and labour support course which consists of at least 14 hours of training, read a minimum of 4 books from the WOMBS reading list, write and pass a formal examination. The practical requirements for the course include observation of two births as well as labour support for two women for the duration of labour, birth and for one hour after birth.

#### B. Experience

Doulas certified by WOMBS will have the experience set forth in the WOMBS Requirements for Certification. This includes provision of support to at least 4 clients, good evaluations from clients and healthcare providers, and records of four births, including a summary, observation form and accounts for each birth.

#### C. Maintenance of Certification

Doulas must attend at least one continuing education event per year in maternal/child health.

#### D. Record Keeping

The Doula maintains clear and accurate records for each client encounter and the birth.

I, ..... agree to bind myself to the above Scope of Practice for the duration of my WOMBS membership.

Thus signed on this ..... day of ..... 20.....