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Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care: National Guidelines

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Preface

The *Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care: National Guidelines* were developed through a collaborative process involving 70 professionals and consumers across Canada, and facilitated by Health Canada and the Canadian Institute of Child Health. Since so many stakeholders are involved in the care of mothers and babies in Canada, the process of developing these guidelines needed to be participatory and inclusive to increase the likelihood that they would be used and have an impact. Therefore, these Guidelines are the result of a three-phase process — starting with a survey of users; proceeding with consultation with national professional and consumer organizations; and concluding with the writing and review being accomplished by individuals representing the various disciplines involved in maternal and newborn care, families and all regions of the country.

To plan the process for developing the guidelines, a Core Group of national professional and consumer organizations was established. It identified recent information that was relevant to the development of the guidelines; planned the process for writing; made recommendations regarding their structure; identified participants for working groups to write them; and planned for the roles of their participant organizations in dissemination and implementation.

Thirteen Working Groups, organized around the content of the guidelines, were established to write the content. The Working Groups members were interdisciplinary volunteers; each group was headed by the project director. The disciplines were medicine (neonatology, obstetrics/perinatology, anaesthesia, and family medicine); nursing (community and hospital); midwifery; families; childbirth education; administration; architecture and planning. The Core Group chose volunteers based on their expertise in particular subject areas. All regions of the country were represented. These volunteers communicated via conference calls to establish the outline for their chapter, discuss the specific content and review drafts. They continued their work through e-mail, fax, and mail communication. The volunteers each wrote specific areas of the content and the project director drew the content together and edited/revised the chapters. Each of the chapters went through three or four drafts during this process.

The specific chapters and/or the entire document were reviewed by other volunteer reviewers. In addition, the entire document was reviewed, revised, and finalized by a formal Editorial Review Team. This team of 15 individuals was interdisciplinary in composition, including consumers. It represented each of the Working Groups, had representatives who had not previously been part of the process, and represented all regions of the country. Each member had expertise in the related content. The Editorial Review Team reviewed and provided feedback on three further drafts of the guidelines. Its members identified, discussed and resolved contentious issues. The team worked exclusively via teleconferences — each chapter requiring at least three calls — and the project director was responsible for revising and editing the drafts according to the team’s recommendations.

The result of this tremendous volunteer effort is the newly revised *Family-Centred Maternity and Newborn Care: National Guidelines — 2000, Millennium Edition*.

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Health Canada specifically would like to thank the Canadian Institute of Child Health, with a special mention to Louise Hanvey, project director, for her input, advice and guidance during the development of this valuable document. Without her expertise, dedication and professionalism, this project would not have been managed in such a cohesive fashion. As well, we wish to mention the writing skills of Wendy Dayton, editing and indexing expertise and constant involvement of Judith Whitehead, the tireless efforts of Rolande Ostiguy, Manager, Publications Projects, Health Canada, as well as the quality of the design and page makeup by Stephanie Pelot, Pentafolio Inc.

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Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses – Canada
Canadian Anaesthetists' Society
Canadian Coalition for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities
Canadian Coalition for Regionalized Perinatal Care
Canadian Confederation of Midwives
Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation
Canadian Healthcare Association
Canadian Institute of Child Health
Canadian Medical Association
Canadian Nurses Association
Canadian Paediatric Society
Canadian Public Health Association
Canadian Women's Health Network
College of Family Physicians of Canada

International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA)
Native Physicians Association in Canada
Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)

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