

CURRENT RULE

A.A.C. R9-16-111 Prohibited Practice; Transfer of Care

B. A midwife shall not accept for midwifery services or continue midwifery services for a client who develops any of the following:

10. Active b. Syphilis

PROPOSED RULE:

A.A.C. R9-16-112. Required Consultation

A. A midwife shall obtain a consultation at the time a client is determined to have any of the following during the current pregnancy:

26. A positive test result for: d. Syphilis;

JUSTIFICATION

- Midwifery scope of practice includes routinely assessing gestational age of the fetus.
- Effective treatment of syphilitic infection in women in less than 20 weeks gestation is achievable; Fetal ultrasonographic abnormalities and treatment failure are rare because the infection can only pass through a fully mature placenta.
- Effective treatment of syphilitic infection is monitored through screening and documentation of a four-fold decrease in titer reactivity. Lab results obtained from the infectious disease specialists may be assessed and addressed by the midwife in routine prenatal checkups. Thoughtful interpretation of results prevents the unnecessary transfer of VDRL positive mothers.
- Women at an increased risk for exposure- those with multiple sex partners, history of STIs, or living in a community with a high prevalence of syphilis- should be rescreened during the third trimester.
- If an especially large, thick, and pale placenta is observed postpartum (indicative of congenital syphilis) midwife will make referral to a pediatric provider skilled in infectious disease for full evaluation.
- Neonates born to women who have been effectively treated for syphilis during gestation will be referred to a pediatric provider skilled in infectious disease for full evaluation.

REFERENCE LIST

Centers for Disease Control. (2015). 2015 STD Treatment Guidelines: Syphilis During Pregnancy. Available online at

<http://www.cdc.gov/std/tg2015/syphilis-pregnancy.htm>

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RHL commentary (last revised: 11 November 2002). *The WHO Reproductive Health Library*; Geneva: World Health Organization.

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