



W. Marshall Taylor Jr., Acting Director

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

April 10, 2015

Position Statement

To: Licensed Midwives and Administrators of Licensed Birthing Centers

From: Gwen C. Thompson, Bureau Chief
Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing

Subject: Use of misoprostol by Licensed Midwives

Section G.5.a of Regulation 61-24, Licensed Midwives, allows licensed midwives to administer drugs or medications for control of postpartum hemorrhaging after consultation with and prescription by a licensed physician. After reviewing literature and consulting DHEC medical staff, it is the Department's position that misoprostol is not a drug or medication intended for control of postpartum hemorrhaging. Therefore, licensed midwives cannot administer misoprostol. The Department will cite licensed midwives for a violation of Section G.5 should they administer misoprostol.

Misoprostol is not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for post-partum hemorrhaging. Any such use is considered an off-label use. Misoprostol can cause shivering and pyrexia as side effects¹. These side effects may interfere with adequate assessment of the causes or potentials causes of postpartum mothers who exhibit fevers.

¹ Allen, Rebecca, MD, MPH, and O'Brien, Barbara M., MD, "Uses of Misoprostol in Obstetrics and Gynecology," *Reviews in Obstetrics & Gynecology*, Vol. 2(3) 2009 Summer, pp. 159-168.