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## MIDWIFERY AND WOMENS HEALTH

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**Bylaws, privileges and protocols: How to collaborate with hospital administrators and physicians so your midwifery practice can flourish****Elizabeth Cook and Trish Geldbach**

Mercy Hospital, USA

Midwifery practices are largely dependent upon institutional bylaws, privileges and protocols. Yet these are usually written by administrators and physicians who may not be fully aware of progressive midwifery practices and scope of care. Furthermore, the foundational training of most midwives almost exclusively revolves around direct patient care. So for those who find themselves in positions of influence, leadership and program development, navigating the necessary political and business complexities can seem daunting. Being poised for success requires that such midwives comprehend the political process, the framework by which administrators and physicians function and tactical mechanisms to effect change and collaboration. From there a dovetailing of the unique perspectives that midwives, physicians and administrators bring to a practice will provide the edge that every midwifery team needs to achieve autonomy and great success.

elizabeth.cook@mercy.net