



Practising and Non-practising options

1. **Applying to Renew Your APC for 2021-2022:** If you are the holder of a current practising certificate and you intend to be practising midwifery on or after the 1st of April, you need to apply to *renew* your practising certificate before it expires on the 31st of March.

Practise is not just restricted to clinical practice but also education, quality improvement, regulation, professional policy advice etc... Any role that requires you to use your midwifery knowledge and skills and that impacts on public safety. Midwives are required to hold a practising certificate if they are providing antenatal education or lactation services. This is because antenatal education and breastfeeding are both skills that sit under the midwifery scope of practice.

If you are unsure if you require a practising certificate, please contact the Council to discuss this. It is the Council's decision regarding the need to hold an APC, not your employer's.

2. **Applying for an APC** (returning to practise after time away): If you do not currently hold a valid APC, have had some time away from practise, for whatever reason, and you wish to apply to return to practise, you need to apply for an APC. **This is *not* a renewal as you do not currently hold an annual practising certificate that can be renewed.** If this option best describes your situation, please visit the 'Returning to Midwifery practice' section on the Council's website for information on the Council's Return to Practice Policy and the APC application process.
3. **Applying for or renewing a 'Non-practising' status:** If you are the current holder of an APC or are currently 'non-practising' on the Register and you *do not* intend to practise midwifery on or after 1 April, then you should be applying to hold or renew a 'non-practising' status. The practise of midwifery goes beyond clinical practice and is described above (in red). Be sure that you do not require an APC before selecting this option. There are many reasons why a midwife may wish to hold a 'non-practising' status on the Register. Some of these include: taking a sabbatical, going on an overseas trip or practising overseas for a time, illness, parental leave etc.

Holding a 'non-practising' status on the Register signals to wahine and their whanau, other health practitioners and professionals, and health authorities that you are still a registered midwife, but that, for whatever reason, you are not currently practising midwifery. Holders of a 'non-practising' status will receive regular communications from the Council, just as those holding APCs, and will be eligible to participate in any consultations the Council may be facilitating from time to time.

Those holding a 'non-practising' status are not *required* to participate in continuing midwifery education; however, if you intend to return to practise in the future, the Council does encourage ongoing participation to keep your skills and knowledge up-to-date and make the transition back to practise more straightforward.

Of the utmost importance is keeping your contact information up-to-date with the Council during any period of non-practise, so you do not miss any important communications and can be alerted to any upcoming consultations and the opening of the next renewal season.

4. **Applying for removal from the Register:** If you are the current holder of an APC or are currently 'non-practising' on the Register and you *do not* intend to practise midwifery in the future, you can apply to have your name formally removed from the Register of Midwives. Having your name formally removed from the Register of Midwives means your name will not appear when the Register is searched by wahine and their whanau, other health practitioners and professionals, and health authorities, amongst others, and you will no longer receive any communications from the Council. Any records the Council currently holds about you will also be archived and/or securely destroyed.

Should your circumstances change, and you wish to return to the profession in the future, you can submit an application to restore your name to the Register of Midwives. How straightforward or otherwise this process is will depend on the time that has passed, whether there have been any changes to the governing legislation and requirements of practice since you were last on the Register, and your individual circumstances. A fee will apply for this application.