

14 June 2018

Dear Colleagues

Provision of Primary Maternity Services post 1 July

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has written to you previously regarding the 1 July 2018 deadline for all existing children's workers to have completed a worker safety check as per the Vulnerable Children Act 2014.

As of today, the Ministry is aware that 789 community LMC midwives are yet to provide evidence of a successful check to the Ministry for the purposes of claiming for services under the Primary Maternity Services Notice 2007. The relationship between the Ministry and providers of primary maternity services is a contractual one via the authorisations to claim under the Notice. Therefore, at 1 July 2018, those who have not provided this evidence to the Ministry will be non-compliant with the terms of their authorisations to claim.

The Ministry is committed to the safety and wellbeing of mothers and infants. We are also mindful of maintaining a stable, engaged workforce in the interests of sustainability of primary maternity services and continuity of care after the 1 July 2018 target date for safety checking. For this reason we will be implementing a compliance process for those providers who do not submit evidence of a safety check compliant with the requirements of the Vulnerable Children legislation on or before 1 July 2018.

The aim of this compliance process is to ensure that the maximum number of providers are compliant with the Vulnerable Children Legislation.

The compliance process has three steps as follows:

1. Step One: **Reminder letter** issued in the week starting 2 July 2018 giving a further four weeks for providers who have not yet submitted evidence of a safety check to rectify. This letter will be the first official notification that a provider is non-compliant with the terms of their authorisation to claim. It allows for an initial period of approximately 20 working days for providers to become compliant before they will be ineligible to provide services under the Notice. This first letter will also outline the remainder of the compliance process.
2. Step Two: **First termination letter** issued to those who have still not submitted a safety check in the week starting 30 July in line with the termination process outlined in the Primary Maternity Services Notice 2007 (the Notice). This letter will advise that claims with service dates on or after 6 August 2018 will not be paid for these providers.

This first termination letter will give a further four weeks to provide evidence of a safety check. If evidence of a safety check is submitted during this four week

period, claims for services will be paid from the date of issue of the safety check or from 6 August 2018, whichever is later.

3. Step Three: **Second termination letter** issued during the week starting 10 September 2018 indicating authorisations belonging to non-compliant providers will be terminated on 21 September 2018. Providers whose authorisation to claim is terminated who wish to provide primary maternity services in the future will need to reapply for an authorisation to claim as well as provide evidence of a safety check.

Consequently we wish to confirm that all providers of primary maternity services who claim under the Notice will be able to continue service provision and to submit claims with service date up to **6 August 2018**. You are welcome to communicate this information to your members.

A timeline summarising key dates is appended.

If you have any questions about the above contact Megan Williams (Megan.Williams@moh.govt.nz).

Thank you for the support you have already provided to enable LMCs to receive a funding contribution for safety checks once completed via our existing contract.

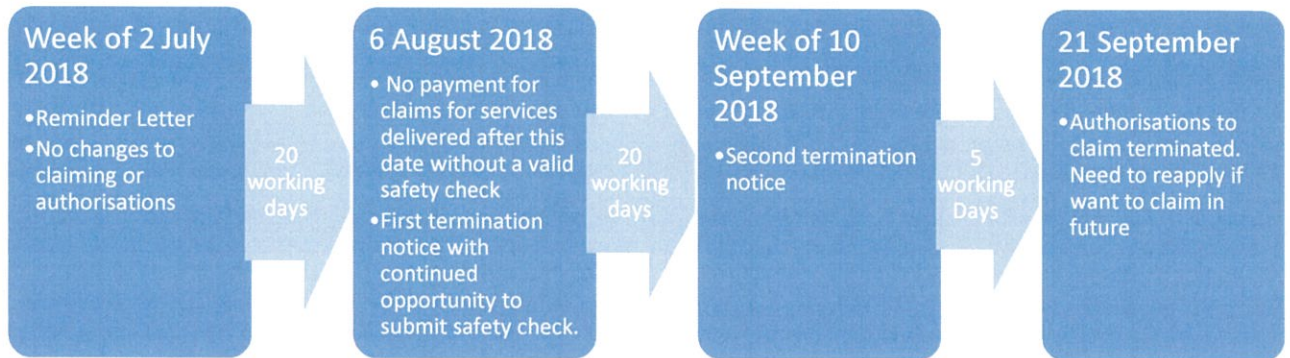
We appreciate your ongoing efforts and support in this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jill Lane', is written over the typed name and title.

Jill Lane
Director
Service Commissioning

Timeline for Compliance Process



Note that Notice periods run from date of receipt of mailed letter/notice.