The Midwifery Council

The Midwifery Council is the guardian of professional standards in midwifery. It makes sure midwives meet and maintain professional standards of education, conduct and performance so that they deliver high quality healthcare throughout their careers. The safety of mothers and babies comes first.

Overview

There are many activities that midwives are engaged in on a daily basis that focus on quality improvement in practice and that contribute to the betterment of the Midwifery profession in New Zealand.

Midwives are required to obtain a minimum of eight (8) professional activity hours per annum. In all situations midwives are required to hold formal evidence of engagement in professional activities in their portfolio.

All Midwives are required to reflect on their learning from the professional activity and demonstrate how this has changed their practice.

The following schedule lists the most common activities.

Schedule of professional activities

31 March 2017

Research participation and publication

- Publications in midwifery journals/texts or other professional journals/texts *
- Midwifery book reviews for publication *
- Advisory participation in research projects that impact on care provided to women
- Local “hands on” participation in formal ethically approved research projects that impact on care provided to women
- Journal article peer reviews *

Quality assurance activities

- Conducting clinical audits
- Evidence based policy and guideline development
- BFHI Assessor
- BFHI local coordinator – must be over and above requirements of employment
- Quality Health NZ auditor
- Participation in project user groups that directly impact on midwifery practice

Other activities will be added to the schedule when identified.

Hours guidance

Most activities will be able to have direct hours of engagement attributed to them. Some activities highlighted with an * will include preparation time that is completed by the midwife away from the activity. This time should be included and as a guide it is suggested that it should be a minimum of four hours.

Contact Us

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Working with colleagues

• Engaging in mentoring as a mentor or mentee. This includes for example MFYP mentoring, rural mentoring, mentoring internationally qualified midwives new to New Zealand, mentoring of colleague in a return to practice programme
• Preceptoring midwifery students in clinical placements
• Preceptoring and supporting orientation of a registered colleague to the work environment
• Unpaid voluntary midwifery practice overseas
• Assisting and assessing other health professionals in their maternity related teaching and learning activities

Engagement with the profession

• Attending professional organisation meetings
• Engaging in midwifery group practice formal peer review meetings
• Member of NZCOM Midwifery Standards Review Panel
• Member of NZCOM Resolutions Committee
• DHB QLP assessor or Professional Development Programme assessor
• Office holder as Union representative
• Office Bearer or Committee Member in Professional Organisation * regional committee
• Professional organisation regional Chair or National Committee Member
• Organising midwifery events e.g. International Midwives day activities, Hui, Fono.
• Member of professional organisation conference organising or scientific committee.

Midwives must obtain a minimum of eight professional activity hours per annum

National and Regional appointments

• Member of National Maternity related group eg PMMRC, NMMG
• Appointment to DHB Maternity Quality and Safety Group
• Appointment to DHB Maternal Clinical Governance Group
• Participation on national projects that directly impact on midwifery practice
• Participation on regional projects that directly impact on midwifery practice
• Expert witness for HDC, ACC, Coroners Court or HPDT
• Local PMMRC/AMOSS coordinator

Council appointments

• Competence assessment of overseas midwives seeking registration where formally requested by the Midwifery Council which involves assessment against the competencies for entry to the register of midwives
• Member of Midwifery Council Competence Review Panel
• Competence Supervisor appointed by the Midwifery Council
• Competence Assessor appointed by the Midwifery Council
• Member of Midwifery Council Professional Conduct Committee
• Midwifery Council recertification auditor

Teaching and learning

Historically attendance at conferences or seminars has been included as professional activity. Changes to recertification programme effective 1/4/17 mean that these are now classified as continuing midwifery education hours.

• Presentation at seminars or formal teaching sessions
• Informal teaching sessions for peers or students*
• Case presentations to colleagues *
• Presentation at conferences *
• Attendance at Journal club
• DHB adult or neonatal resuscitation educator over and above normal role

* As at 09/09/2015 Professional Organisations include College of Midwives, Nga Maia Maori Midwives, Pasifika Midwives