



Midwives whose main midwifery role is non-clinical

The public expects midwives in any capacity to maintain and demonstrate their competence to practise. The Council monitors this through the statutory process of issuing the competent midwife with a practising certificate (APC). Every year when applying for a APC, midwives must make a number of statutory declarations, including:

I declare that I have practised across the midwifery scope at some time during the preceding three years.

The Recertification Steering Group identified that there are some midwives whose practice supports, guides and directs midwifery but it is not clinically based. The key deciding factor is that the person who holds the position is required to be a midwife in order to work in the role. Examples of practice in this instance include:

- Midwifery educators
- Midwifery researchers
- Midwifery advisors
- Midwifery directors or associate directors
- Midwifery managers
- Midwifery quality and risk managers

In accepting that practice in these areas satisfies the declaration of practice across the midwifery scope, the Council aligns with other statutory authorities who have administrative scopes of practice or who identify some clinicians' practice is education, research etc.

Process

The pilot process for such midwives to make the above declaration removes the requirement for midwives to work clinically unless they choose to or are required to as part of their employment.

Midwives in such roles must submit a short statement at the time of their APC application that describes how in their day to day role they have "practised" across the scope. Practice in this instance means providing education, professional advice, undertaking research etc. Statements will be reviewed the Registrar and an APC will be issued accordingly.

Recertification

Just as core and LMC midwives reflect on their practice, the Council expects that midwives will reflect and be reviewed on their practice, be it education, research etc. Feedback from colleagues must reflect the work the midwife does rather than being generic clinical feedback.

