



# Returning to practice after more than three years

December 2022

A formal Return to Practice Programme is for midwives who have taken a break from practice for more than three years.

Return to Practice requires communication between you, the Council and your potential employer/group practice.

## 1. Fitness to Practice

Your Return to Practice application is made through your MyMCANZ online portal. All registered midwives have an account. If you do not have access to this, please contact the Council in the first instance. ALL required documents must be provided at the time of making our Return to Practice application online. When all documents and your application is received, your application will then be reviewed, and a decision made within three to five working days.

### Documents required:

Police Check

Medical Certificate

Your CV

Plan for completing education requirements

## 2. Midwifery Education Requirements

Continuing education courses\* are required following the issuing of a practising certificate. These will vary depending on how long you have been out of practice. If you believe that you should have exemption from completing any of these courses, you should contact the Council and submit a formal request that demonstrates how you have retained the necessary knowledge for an exemption.

*NB: times given are completion time frames from the time of commencing practice. Category A is not within the formal Return to Practice programme as it is for midwives who have been out of practice less than three years.*

Category B  
(Not practised for three to five years)

- Midwifery Emergency Skills Refresher <6 months
- Midwifery Standards Review (MSR) post 2 years APC Application
- Neonatal Resuscitation full day <6 months
- Electronic fetal monitoring education\*\* <6 months
- Pharmacology and prescribing\*\* <6 months
- GAP (Growth Assessment Protocol) \*\* <6 months
- Abortion Legislation and Midwifery Roles and Responsibilities <6 months

Category C  
(Not practised for five to ten years)

- All of category B, plus:
- Supernumerary time with preceptor and competence assessment <2 months
  - Family Violence Workshop <12 months
  - Smoking Cessation Course\*\* <12 months
  - National Screening Unit 4 Courses + HIV\*\* <12 months
  - Integrated short course physiological pregnancy/birth <12 months
  - Integrated short course complicated pregnancy/birth <24 months
  - NZ Maternity and Midwifery Systems\*\* <24 months
  - Cultural competence for midwives\*\* <24 months
  - Examination of newborn theory\*\* and practical courses <6 months
  - Abortion Legislation and midwifery roles and Responsibilities <12 months

\* Also satisfies the Continuing Midwifery Education requirements of the Recertification Programme.

\*\* Available online

### 3. Midwives who have been out of midwifery practice for 10 years or more

Category D  
(Not practised for 10+ years)

- You will be referred to a midwifery school for a competence assessment. The school will undertake a clinical and theoretical assessment and develop in partnership with you a plan for return to practice which is to be submitted to the Council for approval.

As the requirements are successfully completed, you will need to provide evidence to the Council.

In addition to these requirements, every midwife returning to practice will also have in place:

#### Supervisor

Each midwife will have a supervisor approved by the Council for the duration of the return to practice programme. Supervision means meeting on monthly basis to review practice. The supervisor will send a report to the Council after every meeting.

There are costs associated with Return to Practice Programme requirements. You are advised to check what these are.

#### Monitoring

All midwives will have their progress in the return to practice programme monitored

### 4. Annual Practising Certificate

Once your programme is approved, you will be able to apply for your Annual Practising Certificate through your MyMCANZ portal.

*If you are ready to begin or have any questions, please contact us at: [Education@midwiferycouncil.health.nz](mailto:Education@midwiferycouncil.health.nz) or on 04 499 5040*

If you have been working overseas as a midwife and are now returning to New Zealand midwifery, please refer to the Returning to Midwifery practice in Aotearoa New Zealand section on our website.

#### The Midwifery Council

The Midwifery Council 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.