



The Recertification Programme is a programme of education and associated activities that all midwives are required to engage in to demonstrate their ongoing competence to practise.

Practice across the Scope over three years

Midwifery Emergency Skills  
Refresher  
(Annually)

Professional activities  
(Eight hours per year)

Recertification  
Programme

Quality assurance

Quality improvement

Continuing midwifery  
education  
(Eight hours per year)

Midwifery Standards  
review  
(Three yearly)

Comprises Introduction to  
the Abortion Legislation  
and Midwifery Roles and  
Responsibilities plus four  
hours of education selected  
by the individual

## The Midwifery Council

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | 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.

## Quality Assurance

### Midwifery Emergency Skills Refresher

Requirement: Once every year

Content:

- Midwifery management of maternal collapse /resuscitation of the pregnant woman
- Resuscitation of the newborn
- Maternity emergencies

Provided by: Midwifery Council accredited providers of midwifery education.

Can be achieved through completion of inter-professional education (i.e. Prompt + NNR update or ALSO). Evidence of completion and reflection to be retained in the midwife's portfolio.

### Continuing midwifery education

Requirement: Minimum eight hours per year

Content:

Four hours self directed mandated Abortion Law Reform education: 'Introduction to the Abortion Legislation and Midwifery Roles and Responsibilities'.

Any education which has direct relevance to the midwife's professional role and which enhances and leads to development of her practice.

May include (but is not limited to):

- Midwifery continuing education provided by NZ College of Midwives regions and other professional midwifery organisations
- Online e-learning
- Webinar attendance
- Maternity focused in-service education e.g. breastfeeding updates, fetal heart rate monitoring updates
- Formal post-graduate education (may be from a range of disciplines)
- Formal reflection on research articles
- Attendance at conferences/seminars which have direct application to the midwife's practice

Provided by: Midwifery Council-accredited providers of midwifery education and midwifery events, CUAP and NZQA-approved tertiary education.

International events of relevance to midwifery practice will be considered on a case by case basis e.g. Virtual International Day of the Midwife conference, ICM conference, Normal Birth conference.

Evidence of completion and reflection to be retained in the midwife's portfolio

## Quality Improvement

### Professional Activities

Requirement: Minimum eight hours per year

Definition: Activities in which midwives engage that contribute to professional practice and quality improvement.

May include (but is not limited to):

- Precepting students and new midwives
- Mentoring colleagues
- Attendance at NZ College of Midwives/Nga Maia/Pasifika midwives' professional meetings
- Midwifery group practice peer review/case review meetings
- Case presentation to colleagues
- Formal audit and policy review
- Membership and involvement in quality improvement activities within area of practice
- Involvement with research, publications, journal article peer review
- Professional roles e.g. NLS instructor, supervisor, union delegate

Evidence of engagement in activities is to be included within the midwife's portfolio. Evidence can include certificates of attendance, letters of appointment, meeting terms of reference and attendance records.

An extensive list of professional activities is included within the Recertification Policy available on the Council website.

### Midwifery Standards Review

Requirement: Once every three years from time of next review with the following exclusions

- Midwives in the Midwifery First Year of Practice Programme: Complete a review at the end of their first year and third years of practice. Reviews are three yearly thereafter
- Midwives on a Return to Practice programme: Complete a review at the end of their second year of practice. Reviews are three yearly thereafter
- Internationally Qualified Midwives undertaking the Overseas Competence Programme: Complete a review at the end of their second year of practice. Reviews are three yearly thereafter

MSR reviewers have the discretion to require a midwife to complete a review before the required timeframe. They cannot extend any timeframes.

Evidence of completion i.e. certificate and professional development plan to be included within midwife's portfolio.

## Maintaining competence to practise

Te Tatau o te Whare Kahu | Midwifery Council defines maintaining competence to practise for registered midwives as, “the on-going capacity to integrate knowledge, skills, understanding, attitudes, and values within the professional framework of the Midwifery Scope of Practice”.

Through participation in the Midwifery Council’s Recertification Programme, midwives demonstrate their continuing competence to practise and therefore their competence to be issued with an annual practising certificate. Participation in the Recertification Programme requires a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development by midwives.

Engagement in the Recertification Programme is the way midwives demonstrate ongoing competence.

## Practice across the scope

All midwives are to have evidence of how they practise across the midwifery scope within their portfolio.

The definition of practice is not only limited to clinical practice, but includes and is not limited to, education, professional policy, research management and leadership. “Practice” is identified as:

- any area where the midwife uses her midwifery knowledge and skills; and
- that has an impact either directly or indirectly on the health and safety of the public; or
- to inform or review the practice of other midwives.

Evidence can include written exemplars of good practice, reflections on critical incidents.

Midwives in positions of education, leadership etc may include evidence from within their day to day work demonstrating how the work that they do covers the midwifery scope. Include a definition of practice.

## Returning to work following time out from practice

Midwives returning to work after a break should contact the Council to discuss their recertification requirements.



### Contact Us

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