

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

▶ March 2020 COVID-19 v3



Kia ora koutou

The Council acknowledges the challenging environment that midwives are currently working in and the rapid state of change.

The Council is in touch regularly with the Ministry and College, the schools of midwifery and midwifery leaders and is keeping an eye on developments as they occur. The Council encourages midwives to refer to the official information that is provided from the Ministry about practice issues in order to support their practice. As previously advised the Council reiterates to midwives that if there are concerns raised about their practice at this time, it will take context into consideration. It also reminds midwives to be guided by the Code of Conduct and to work within the limits of their competence.

Dr Sue Calvert, CE/Registrar,

Midwifery Council

Recertification requirements

At this time of uncertainty the Council acknowledges the pressures that are being placed on the workforce. While many midwives are actively engaging in continuous development through their learning about COVID-19 or PPE for example, the Council is aware that many education sessions, events and meetings that are included as part of the Recertification Programme have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely.

The Council has placed the requirements for the **2020-2021** recertification programme on hold until 31st December 2020.

Midwives who are already behind in the recertification programme need to contact the Council to discuss their situation once this initial crisis phase has ended and to provide a plan as to how they will meet their outstanding requirements. If you are behind you need to catch up.



Social media

At this time of change and uncertainty the Council refers midwives to the Code of Conduct and specifically the statement around social media. This is repeated here

Guidance statement:

Social networking sites are a way of communicating personal information with friends and family. It is never appropriate to discuss individual practice, midwifery experiences or midwifery colleagues on a social networking site. Midwives and midwifery students must understand that information posted on these sites can be accessed by a number of people, no matter what the level of security. Midwives and midwifery students must be cautious when posting personal information, photos or videos onto sites and ensure that they do not inadvertently identify any clients or colleagues. Once anything has been uploaded onto a social networking site, control is lost of it forever.

Practising Certificates

Midwives are reminded that in order to practise tomorrow they must hold a valid practising certificate.

The new APC year begins tomorrow and those midwives who have not applied are reminded that if they want to work they must hold a new 2020-2021 certificate. If you have not applied for an APC by midnight 31st March 2020 you will not hold an APC and you will not, by law, be allowed to practise.

Emergency Practising Certificates

Like many other regulators, the Council is making special emergency practising certificates available.

These are for midwives who meet specific criteria and are granted so they can practise during the pandemic.

They are only valid for six months.



Essential workers ID

Practising certificate plastic cards are being processed daily. For those midwives who applied in the last week it is unlikely that they will receive a current card. The Council can provide an essential worker letter of confirmation of practising certificate on request. Please note these can only be sent to the email that is held on the Council's database. Please note this is a service that

Strengthening the health workforce

The Ministry of Health is moving to increase the capacity of the health workforce to deliver essential health services and are seeking expressions of interest from midwives who are able and willing to work for a limited amount of time as part of the national strategic approach to managing COVID-19.

Midwives are deemed to be an essential service. Midwives must ensure that they work within the limits of their competence.

The Ministry of Health has put in place a system to nationally coordinate the matching of supply and demand. This means understanding who is available to work and matching them to roles that need to be filled in the sector.

The Ministry of Health has put in place a system to nationally coordinate the matching of supply and demand. This means understanding who is available to work and matching them to roles that need to be filled in the sector. Some of these will be contact roles, while others will be supporting services such as Healthline and contact tracing, which can be done remotely.

Accent Health will manage this process. They will collect information about health workers availability, co-ordinate re-registration with the relevant regulatory board or council, and then supporting the process to get into employment quickly. Employers will be able to log their workforce requests, and then people will be matched to positions.

If you are able to assist with the COVID-19 response please register your interest [here](#).

2020 | INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE MIDWIFE



Faxed prescriptions

The enforcement of the obligation to obtain an original of a faxed prescription during the state of emergency will be suspended by the Ministry on the conditions set out below:

- Each faxed prescription must otherwise be fully compliant with regulation 41 of the Medicines Regulations 1984
- The suspension will not apply to controlled drugs prescriptions which will continue to require an original prescriber signature.
- The suspension will only apply to dispensing activity by pharmacies that occurs during Level 3 or 4 Covid-19 Alert System periods and for the time period prior from 1 March 2020 (inclusive) to close of business 23 March 2020 and for any other

such other period as the Ministry may subsequently advise you in writing.

Faxed prescriptions meeting the suspension conditions will not be subject to adverse audit comment or recovery action during future audits.

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DIARY



1 May

Council meeting

Please note that the Council is holding ad hoc meetings as required during this time.



Council offices

The Council is located on:

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