

Access for Endorsed Midwives into Public Maternity Units Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure Health Service Providers support safe and high quality maternity care within the Western Australian public health system by enabling Endorsed Midwives to access public maternity units through a Licensing Agreement for the purposes of delivering maternity services to their clients.

Under current legislation Endorsed Midwives are:

- Required to hold current general registration with endorsement for scheduled medicines pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010*
- Able to admit patients pursuant to the *Health Insurance Amendment Regulations 2010 (No. 1)*
- To have a collaborative arrangement in place pursuant to the *National Health (Collaborative arrangements for midwives) Determination 2010*.

This policy mandates the process by which Health Service Providers are to provide Endorsed Midwives with access to their maternity units. Under this process, Endorsed Midwives will be able to book in and admit women as private patients under her/his care and to provide midwifery care whilst the woman and / or her baby are inpatients.

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the *Credentialing and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice Policy* which requires Endorsed Midwives to be credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice in accordance with the *Credentialing and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing and Midwifery Standard*.

This Policy is a mandatory requirement under the *Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework*.

This Policy supersedes *Access for Eligible Midwives into Public Maternity Units OD 0570/14* and *Resources to support Health Services facilitate Access and Credentialing for Eligible Midwives IC 0181/14*.

2. Applicability

This Policy is applicable to all Health Service Providers that provide maternity services.

3. Policy requirements

Health Service Providers that provide maternity services must use the *Licensing Agreement for Endorsed Midwives* (refer to section 5 of this Policy) when entering into collaborative arrangements with Endorsed Midwives to enable Endorsed Midwives to access public maternity units for the provision of maternity services to clients under their care.

Before entering into a Licensing Agreement, Health Service Providers must ensure that all Endorsed Midwives hold current general registration with endorsement under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010* and have no restrictions on practice.

Health Service Providers are required to provide six monthly reports to the Nursing and Midwifery Office, Department of Health via nursingwa@health.gov.au, regarding:

- the number of Endorsed Midwives engaged through the licensing arrangement, and
- the number of patients admitted under the care of each Endorsed Midwife.

4. Compliance, monitoring and evaluation

Health Service Providers are responsible for complying with this Policy. The System Manager through the Nursing and Midwifery Office will collate the information received through the six monthly reports and report the results to Health Service Providers. The results will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this Policy. Results will also be provided as part of National Benchmarking data annually.

5. Related documents

The following documents are required to give affect to this Policy (i.e. the documents included are mandatory):

- [Licensing Agreement for Endorsed Midwives](http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Access-for-Privately-Practising-Midwives)
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6. Supporting information

The following documents inform this Policy (i.e. documents that are not mandatory to the implementation of this policy but may support the implementation of the policy):

- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Credentialing health practitioners and defining their scope of clinical practice – A guide for managers and practitioners, December 2015 available at:
<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications/credentialing-health-practitioners-and-defining-their-scope-of-clinical-practice-a-guide-for-managers-and-practitioners-december-2015/>
- National Registration and Accreditation Scheme as operated by the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency as found at: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia as found at <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>

7. Definitions

The following definitions are relevant to this Policy.

Term	Definition
Endorsed Midwife	An individual midwife registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia who holds an endorsement as a midwife eligible to prescribe, administer and supply scheduled medicines in accordance with state and territory legislation; and has entered into a Licensing Agreement for Endorsed Midwives with a Health Service

	Provider.
Licensing Agreement for Endorsed Midwives	An agreement between the Health Service Providers and the Endorsed Midwives to enable the use of state owned equipment and facilities at sites with maternity units for the purpose of providing midwifery care to private patients of the midwife.
Collaborative Arrangements	An arrangement between an Endorsed Midwife and a medical practitioner or a Health Service Provider that must provide for, where clinically indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consultation with a specified medical practitioner; • referral of a patient to a specified medical practitioner; and • transfer of the patient's care to a specified medical practitioner to ensure safe, high quality health care.

8. Policy owner

Assistant Director General Clinical Excellence Division

Enquiries relating to this policy may be directed to:

Title: Principal Midwifery Advisor

Division: Clinical Excellence Division

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9. Review

This mandatory policy will be reviewed and evaluated as required to ensure relevance and recency. At a minimum it will be reviewed within 3 years after first issue and at least every 3 years thereafter.

Version	Effective from	Effective to	Amendment(s)
MP 0093/18 v.1.0	27 September 2018	27 September 2021	Original version
MP 0093/18 v.1.1	29 May 2019		Minor Amendment – Fixed broken links

The review table indicates previous versions of the mandatory policy and any significant changes.

10. Approval

This mandatory policy has been approved and issued by the Director General of the Department of Health.

Approval by	Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General, Department of Health
Approval date	4 September 2018
Published date	27 September 2018
RMR#	F-AA-54525



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