

2.2 Endorsement to practice as an eligible midwife

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Registration standard for endorsement of midwives as eligible midwives

Summary

To be entitled to endorsement under section 98 of the National Law an applicant wishing to be identified as an eligible midwife must be able to meet all the requirements including being a currently registered midwife in Australia; being able to demonstrate through professional review of practice at least 3 years experience across the continuum of midwifery care within the 5 year period preceding the application, comply with the collaboration requirements for eligible midwives; and have an approved qualification to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe and supply scheduled medicines required for practice across that continuum of midwifery care.

Wording to appear on the register

Endorsed as an eligible midwife working across the continuum of midwifery care and qualified to provide the associated services, order diagnostic investigations and administer, obtain, possess, prescribe and supply schedule 2,3,4 & 8 medicines in accordance with relevant State and Territory legislation, required for midwifery practice.

Scope of endorsement

This endorsement applies to a class of registered midwives and not to all registered midwives.

An endorsement under section 98 indicates that the applicant is qualified to provide care across the continuum of midwifery care; including the capacity to provide associated services, order diagnostic investigations, administer, obtain, possess, prescribe and supply schedule 2, 3, 4 or 8 medicines in accordance with relevant State and Territory legislation; and appropriate to the eligible midwife's scope of practice and is therefore an eligible midwife.

Requirements

To be entitled to endorsement as an eligible midwife, a midwife must be able to demonstrate all the following:

- a) Current general registration as a midwife in Australia with no restrictions on practice;
- b) Practice for at least three years across the continuum of midwifery care, within the previous 5 years;
- c) Successful completion of an approved professional review program for midwives working across the continuum of midwifery care;
- d) 20 additional hours per year of continuing professional development relating to the continuum of midwifery care;
- e) Compliance with the collaboration requirements for eligible midwives;
- f) Successful completion of:
 - i. an accredited and approved program of study determined by the Board to develop midwives' knowledge and skills in prescribing, or
 - ii. a program that is substantially equivalent to such an approved program of study.

Definitions

Approved professional review program is a formal professional review program for midwives approved by the Board, designed to review evidence of performance over time across the continuum of midwifery care including self assessment: against the *Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives in Australia*, the *Code of Ethics for Midwives in Australia*, the ANMC *National Competency Standards for the Midwife*, the ACM *National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral*; review of information detailing de-identified client data on outcomes including adverse events and complaints; consultation, review and referral with other health professionals; review of client satisfaction; other forms of professional review and assessment – by employers, professional organisations, peers; ongoing professional development across the continuum of midwifery care; timely and correct provision of maternity data to jurisdictional data collections.

Approved program of study to develop a midwife's knowledge and skills in prescribing is one that has been accredited by the accrediting authority for the Board and approved by the Board for the purpose of qualifying the registered midwife for this endorsement.

The content of the program will reflect that prescribing is a competence based professional act, and will enable midwives to develop their knowledge and skills in prescribing, including the critical elements relating to clinical assessment, exercise of clinical judgement, planning, implementation, monitoring and review. This will be designed around the four components of prescribing – information gathering, clinical decision making, generation of medication order and monitoring and review. A list of approved programs of study will be published on the website.

The program of study will be conducted to meet the requirements for a post graduate qualification level designed for practising midwives upgrading their midwifery knowledge, skills and experience in the area of midwifery medication prescribing and management and meet the qualification requirements for accreditation through the NRAS and the Australian Quality Framework Higher Education Sector Accreditation.

Collaboration requirements mean the requirements for midwives to work collaboratively with other health professionals as outlined in regulation and national health policy instruments.

Continuum of midwifery care includes: ante-natal care; intrapartum care; postnatal care, including clinical assessment, exercise of clinical judgement, planning, implementation, monitoring and review, responding to maternity emergencies, assessment and care of the newborn infant, management and administration of medications, strategic use of diagnostic investigations, consultation and referral.

Other requirements

Endorsed eligible midwives are expected to comply with any detailed guidelines on issued from time to time by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and published on the Board's website.

References

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) (2008) *Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives in Australia*, Canberra. Available at: www.anmc.org.au.

ANMC, Australian Nursing Federation, Australian College of Midwives Inc (2008) *Code of Ethics for Midwives in Australia*, Canberra. Available at: www.anmc.org.au.

ANMC (2006) National competency Standards for the Midwife, Canberra. Available at: www.anmc.org.au.

Australian College of Midwives (2008) *National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral, Revised Edition*, Canberra.

Review

This endorsement will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this endorsement at least every three years of operation.