

**HEALTHCARE INSPECTORATE WALES
GUIDELINES FOR STATUTORY SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES**

**ACCESS TO A SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES
NMC MIDWIVES RULES 2004, RULE 12**

Guideline review led by: Gillian Harris, LSA MO
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Revised Guidelines Production date: June 2008

Consultation Process:

Original guidelines produced by LSA in 2004 in consultation with all stakeholders, reviewed and updated when LSA transferred from Health Profession Wales to Healthcare Inspectorate Wales (HIW) in 2006.

Ongoing consultation on the revised guidelines and implementation of National UK Guidelines prepared was undertaken by HIW LSA MO's and Secondee Julie Richards in consultation with Link (Contact) Supervisor of Midwives for Wales (June 2008).

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1. INTRODUCTION

Midwives working in an employing body or in a self employed capacity, must have access to a Supervisor of Midwives at all times. The Supervisor is available to midwives to offer advice and guidance relating to all aspects of midwifery practice.

2. EMPLOYING AUTHORITIES PROCESS

Supervisors of Midwives working in NHS Trusts, Local Health Boards, individual GP Practices and other employing authorities, such as Prison Services, will be responsible for:

- 2.1 establishing mechanisms for each practising midwife to be informed of her named Supervisor of Midwives;
- 2.2 implementing a process that facilitates and enables midwives to change their named Supervisor of Midwives;
- 2.3 publishing on call and availability arrangements that ensure 24-hour cover;
- 2.4 ensuring midwives are aware of how to access the on call arrangements and how to contact a Supervisor of Midwives;
- 2.5 identifying any insufficiencies or shortages in Supervisors of Midwives' manpower requirements and make alternative arrangements for 24 hour cover, including liaising with neighbouring employing bodies. In such circumstances, the LSA MO must be informed and involved;
- 2.6 ensuring, if alternative arrangements are in place, Supervisors of Midwives are familiar and aware of the policies and procedures involving midwives and midwifery care of the area they are covering;
- 2.7 for self employed midwives, please refer to guideline 12.

3. CONTACT / LINK SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES

3.1 Each employing authority will allocate a Contact / Link Supervisor of Midwives who will act as a formal communication between the employing body and the LSA (HIW). The Contact / Link Supervisor of Midwives should be an experienced Supervisor with proven skills in communication and direct access to the Head of Midwifery and Executive Board.