



# Access to Public Maternity Services for Privately Practising Endorsed Midwives Policy

## 1. Purpose

The Access to Public Maternity Services for Privately Practising Endorsed Midwives Policy (the policy) sets out mandatory requirements to support safe, high-quality, continuity of maternity care within the WA public health system by enabling Privately Practising Endorsed Midwives (PPEMs) to access public maternity services through a Licensing Agreement to deliver maternity services to their private clients.

Under this process, PPEMs will be able to book in and admit women as private patients under their care and provide midwifery care whilst the woman and/or her baby are inpatients.

Under current legislation PPEMs:

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

This policy is to be read in conjunction with [MP 0084/18 Credentiailling and Defining the Scope of Clinical Practice Policy](#) which requires PPEMs to be credentialed and have a documented defined scope of clinical practice in accordance with the [Credentiailling and Defining Scope of Clinical Practice for Nursing and Midwifery Standard](#).

This policy must also be read in conjunction with [MP 0095/18 Clinical Handover Policy](#).

This policy is a mandatory requirement for Health Service Providers under the *Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality Policy Framework* pursuant to section 26(2)(c) of the *Health Services Act 2016*.

## 2. Applicability

This policy is applicable to Health Service Providers who provide maternity services.

The requirements contained within this policy are applicable to the services purchased from contracted health entities where it is explicitly stated in the contract between the contracted health entity and the State of Western Australia or Health Service Provider. The

State of Western Australia or Health Service Provider contract manager is responsible for ensuring that any obligation to comply with this policy by the contracted health entity is accurately reflected in the relevant contract and managed accordingly.

### 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 to enable PPEMs to access public maternity services.

Before entering into a Licensing Agreement, Health Service Providers must ensure evidence of compliance is received to confirm the PPEM:

- holds current general registration with endorsement under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (WA) Act 2010* and have no restrictions on their practice
- is credentialed
- has a collaborative arrangement in place
- has completed the mandatory training requirements
- has Medical Indemnity Cover and Public Liability Insurance
- commences re-credentialing 6 months prior to expiry of current credentialing
- completes a variation to scope of practice as required.

Health Service Providers must work collaboratively with the System Manager, as the policy owner via the WA Midwifery Workforce Advisory Committee (or alternative), to create and/or amend local policies, guidelines and procedures.

### 4. Compliance Monitoring

The Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office (CNMO), on behalf of the System Manager, will monitor compliance with this policy by requiring Health Service Providers to provide an annual report on:

- the number of PPEMs engaged through a Licensing Agreement
- the number of patients admitted under the care of each PPEM
- the number of PPEMs who meet the policy requirements in section 3.

Further to this, Health Service Providers must ensure their local policies are in alignment with this policy and annual audits will be conducted by the System Manager to monitor compliance.

This data is required at the end of June each year, provided to [CNMO.CED@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:CNMO.CED@health.wa.gov.au). This information will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy.

The System Manager may also request additional information on compliance to ensure alignment with policy requirements.

### 5. Related Documents

The following documents are mandatory pursuant to this policy:

- [Licensing Agreement for Endorsed Midwives](#)

## 6. Supporting Information

The following information is not mandatory but informs and/or supports the implementation of this 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](#)
- [National Registration and Accreditation Scheme as operated by the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency](#)
- [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia](#)

## 7. Definitions

The following definition(s) are relevant to this policy.

Term	Definition
Collaborative arrangements	An arrangement between a Privately Practising Endorsed Midwife and a medical practitioner or a Health Service Provider that must provide for, where clinically indicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• consultation with a specified medical practitioner</li><li>• referral of a patient to a specified medical practitioner; and</li><li>• transfer of the patient's care to a specified medical practitioner to ensure safe, high quality health care.</li></ul>
Licensing Agreement for Privately Practising Endorsed Midwives	An agreement between the Health Service Providers and the Privately Practising 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.
Privately Practising 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 Privately Practising Endorsed Midwives with a Health Service Provider.

## 8. Policy Contact

Enquiries relating to this policy may be directed to:

Title: Principal Midwifery Advisor  
Directorate: Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office  
Email: [CNMO.CED@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:CNMO.CED@health.wa.gov.au)

## 9. Document Control

Version	Published date	Review date	Amendment(s)
MP 0093/18	27 September 2018	May 2019	Original version

MP 0093/18 v.1.1	29 May 2019	January 2022	Minor amendments- fixed broken hyperlinks.
MP 0093/18 v.2.0	14 January 2022	January 2025	Policy review -minor amendment only.
MP 0093/18 v.3.0	24 April 2024	April 2027	Policy review with amendments as listed below.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy renamed from 'Access for Endorsed Midwives into Public Maternity Units Policy' to 'Access to Public Maternity Services for Privately Practising Endorsed Midwives.'</li> <li>• The term 'Endorsed Midwife' replaced with 'Privately Practising Endorsed Midwife' throughout the policy.</li> <li>• Purpose section refined for clarity.</li> <li>• Applicability amended to Health Services Providers who provide maternity services for consistency with other Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office (CNMO) policies.</li> <li>• Policy requirements amended to include credentialing, re-credentialing, training, and insurance requirements.</li> <li>• Compliance monitoring section updated to align with other CNMO policies.</li> <li>• Definitions section refined and updated.</li> <li>• Policy contact updated to reflect policy ownership.</li> </ul>			

Note: Mandatory policies that exceed the scheduled review date will continue to remain in effect.

## 10. Approval

<b>Approval by</b>	Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General, Department of Health
<b>Approval date</b>	4 September 2018

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