



Dear Colleague

Implementing clinical supervision for midwives in Scotland

This letter provides advice for NHS Boards on the actions required of them to implement clinical supervision for midwives.

Background

DL (2016) 24 outlined the actions required of Local Supervising Authorities (LSAs, the health board) in preparation for legislative change to the statutory supervision of midwives. This change came into force on 31 March 2017, which means that the roles and functions associated with statutory supervision ceased to exist on 1 April 2017 and that the governance of midwifery practice now rests exclusively with employers.

Clinical supervision for midwives

As you know, national work is ongoing to support and oversee the implementation of clinical supervision for midwives, led by an Executive Nurse Director and reporting to me. Annex A provides brief information on this and an information pack to support local implementation is attached to the email accompanying this letter.

Action required of NHS Boards:

- Nurse Directors and Heads of Midwifery should take forward the necessary work in readiness for implementing clinical supervision for midwives by 8 January 2018;
- A lead contact for the Board should be notified to margaret.syme@gov.scot by 5 May 2017 to enable two-way communication and progress reporting;
- A monthly progress reporting template (Annex B) should be returned to margaret.syme@gov.scot with the first report due by 31 May 2017.

Yours sincerely

Professor Fiona McQueen
Chief Nursing Officer

DL (2017) 8
28 April 2017

Addresses:For action

Nurse Directors, NHS Boards
Heads of Midwifery

For information

NHS Chief Executives, NHS
Boards
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Background

Clinical supervision for midwives

Clinical supervision is primarily aimed at midwives who work in clinical practice roles providing direct clinical care for women and families, the majority of whom are employed by territorial NHS Boards. It is therefore for non NHS organisations and NHS Special Boards to decide whether to implement this approach for their staff.

Where non-NHS organisations and Special Board employees have contractual arrangements to deliver clinical sessions within territorial NHS boards, they will be able to access clinical supervision as part of the relevant NHS Board provision. Non NHS organisations and Special Boards may also wish to consider partnerships with territorial NHS Boards, should they wish to implement clinical supervision for their staff and where there are small numbers of midwives within the organisation.

Information pack

The enclosed information pack has been produced in partnership with key stakeholders, which will enable national consistency in approach and aims to support Boards with the implementation of local systems and processes.

A national education resource has been developed and colleagues from NES will be in touch with your nominated Board lead to arrange local approaches for delivery of this education. <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/maternalhealth.aspx>

Progress reporting

A progress reporting template is also enclosed (Annex B), which highlights key actions and milestones and we will seek updates at regular intervals in the lead up to the planned implementation date of 8 January 2018.

Implementing clinical supervision for midwives – Board implementation plan progress report

NHS Board:

Nurse Director (name & contact details):

Head of Midwifery or Board Lead (name & contact details):

Update for month ending:

Key	Grey - Not applicable	Green - On track	Amber - Delay with mitigation	Red - Delay anticipated	Blue - Completed
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Implementation milestones:

Legislation comes into force	31 March 2017	Green
Statutory roles cease	From 1 April 2017	Green
New model implementation date	8 January 2018	

Board requirements:

Number of clinical supervisors required:	
Number released for training this period:	
Number trained to date:	

No	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Update on Progress	Mitigating action required
1	Confirmation that from 1 April 2017, midwifery practice is included in existing Board governance processes	Boards	01/04/17		
2	Appointment of clinical supervisors begins	Boards	01/05/17		
3	Begin to release clinical supervisors to undertake training and education modules	Boards	01/06/17		
4	Systems and processes in place to commence delivery of clinical supervision	Boards	08/01/18		