

Fact sheet

Updated February 2020

Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) carries out functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The NMBA does this by developing registration standards, professional codes, guidelines and standards for practice which together establish the requirements for the professional and safe practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

The [Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives](#) describes the necessary qualifications that a midwife must demonstrate when applying for and maintaining endorsement for scheduled medicines.

The following questions answer common queries about the *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives*.

Who does this apply to?

This fact sheet applies to midwives registered in Australia who are applying for, or renewing, an endorsement for scheduled medicines.

What does an endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives mean?

The endorsement means that the midwife has met the requirements of the NMBA *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives* and is qualified to prescribe scheduled medicines and to provide associated services required for midwifery practice in accordance with relevant state and territory legislation.

Why have you included experience across the context of practice'?

The NMBA has broadened the 'context of practice' to recognise that not all privately practising midwives (PPMs) provide intrapartum care in the home, for example, there are PPMs who provide care in discrete areas such as postnatal care (e.g. specialist lactation services) and/or antenatal care.

What are the contexts of practice?

When applying for an endorsement for scheduled medicines, if you are not applying across the continuum of care, you will be required to nominate a context of practice.

The NMBA has approved the following contexts of practice for the endorsement:

- antenatal,
- postnatal, and
- ante and postnatal.

When applying for an endorsement for scheduled medicines in a context of practice, the requirement for three years' full-time clinical practice (5,000 hours) in the past six years, can be drawn from both practice specifically in the context of practice and from roles where the midwife was working in that **and** other contexts of practice. For example, a midwife applying in the postnatal context of practice could use a percentage of the hours worked in a maternity unit caring for both ante and postnatal women.

The context of practice will not be recorded on the endorsement of the midwife on the [national register](#).

Changing or adding contexts of practice?

If you want to change or add to your endorsement in a context of practice you must do so in accordance with the NMBA's [Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery](#). You should also make sure that your professional indemnity insurance arrangements cover the changes to your context of practice and that you inform your insurer about the change to your context of practice.

What will the endorsement for scheduled medicines give me access to?

Once you have an endorsement for scheduled medicines you will be eligible to apply to Medicare Australia for a Medicare provider number and/or a PBS provider number. Once you meet the Medicare Australia requirements you will be able to provide Medicare rebateable services and become an authorised PBS prescriber. For more information refer to the [Australian Government Department of Human Services website](#).

I hold an endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives, do the Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives apply to me?

If you are a privately practising midwife with an endorsement for scheduled medicines, you must also meet the requirements of the *Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives*.

For more information

- [Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives](#)
- [Guidelines: For midwives applying for and maintaining endorsement for scheduled medicines](#)
- [Safety and quality guidelines for privately practising midwives](#)
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)

Document control

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