

WHAT IS MIDWIFERY SUPERVISION?

WHO & WHAT IS A MIDWIFERY SUPERVISOR?

THE PURPOSE OF SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES

Supervision aims to ensure the standard of midwifery practice protects the interests and well being of mothers. Therefore, the main purpose of Supervision is to enable midwives to give high quality care to both mothers and babies.

SO WHAT IS A SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES?

1. A Supervisor is a Registered Midwife who has been qualified and working as a midwife for at least two years.
2. The Supervisor will have applied to take on this role and responsibility in addition to the role that she/he is employed to fill.
3. The prospective Supervisor will have been voted for by her colleagues, interviewed and then recommended to undertake the Supervisor of Midwives training required.
4. Once she/he has successfully completed the Supervisor of Midwives training course and is working as a Supervisor, she must ensure that she keeps her supervisory skills and knowledge up to date and will be expected to provide evidence of this.

HOW SUPERVISION WORKS

Each Supervisor of Midwives will be responsible for supervising approximately 15 midwives. The Supervisor is not usually the manager for those midwives she supervises.

Supervision of Midwives is separate from management of midwives. The Supervisor is someone that the midwife might go to for advice, guidance or support concerning professional issues.

The Supervisor of Midwives must make sure that each midwife keeps her midwifery skills and knowledge up to date, so that the care given to the mothers, babies and families is to the best standard possible.

The Supervisor will monitor care by, for example, auditing the midwives record keeping and investigating any reports of problems in practice. The Supervisor will assess if things are done in the best way for the mother and baby. If the Supervisor identifies areas where change or improvement is needed, she will make the necessary recommendations.

The Supervisor of Midwives will also make sure that maternity services have guidelines, policies and procedures based on the best available evidence, representing the interest of the mothers and babies.

HOW MIGHT A SUPERVISOR HELP YOU?

Sometimes a woman or family may feel they are not involved in decisions regarding their care. In situations like this, the Supervisor can be approached to advise and support.

For example, if a woman wishes to have a home birth but is unsure how to arrange this, or feels she is not getting the support she needs, then a supervisor may be able to help.

SO HOW CAN YOU CONTACT A SUPERVISOR?

You can contact a supervisor of midwives through your midwife or alternatively, you can write to us at the addresses below:

SUPERVISORS OF MIDWIVES
LIVERPOOL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
CROWN STREET
LIVERPOOL
L8 7SS

SUPERVISORS OF MIDWIVES
AINTREE CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH
LOWER LANE
LIVERPOOL
L9 7AL

This leaflet is not intended to be a definitive guide to supervision of midwives. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Telephone 0151 708 9988 (Liverpool Women's)
 0151 525 5980 (Aintree)

This information leaflet is available in different formats on request

Ref: Mat 05/04

Review date December 2006