Midwives - NSW Health Credentialling Framework

Summary
To advise the Health System that Policy Directive PD2005_615 Midwives - NSW Health - Credentialling Framework has been made obsolete on the Policy Distribution System as it is no longer current.

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Public Health System, NSW Ambulance Service, Ministry of Health

Audience
Nursing and Midwifery

Secretary, NSW Health
This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is mandatory for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.
MIDWIVES – NSW HEALTH CREDENTIALLING FRAMEWORK
PD2005_615

PURPOSE
The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to advise the Health System that Policy Directive PD2005_615 Midwives – NSW Health – Credentialling Framework has been made obsolete on the Policy Distribution System as it is no longer required.

KEY INFORMATION
The Credentialling Framework for midwives was developed as a risk management strategy to support the development of midwifery-managed models of care in maternity services in NSW.

Since the policy was introduced, midwifery-managed maternity care has increased and diversified, meeting the needs of women with varying levels of risk and in a variety of settings such as tertiary maternity services, stand-alone birthing services and publicly-funded homebirth. Midwifery-managed models of care are increasingly becoming the accepted service model for maternity care, as highlighted in PD2010_045 Towards Normal Birth.

It is recognised that midwifery-managed models of care must be fully risk-assessed prior to commencement, as part of model development. This includes the processes involved in ensuring that midwives have the appropriate knowledge and skills to competently provide safe, woman-centred care in their particular setting. PD2009_003 Maternity - Clinical Risk Management Program and PD2010_022 Maternity - National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral will inform risk management processes in model development.

Midwifery is a regulated profession and registration standards (including recency of practice and self-assessment of competency) are recognised by the Nurses and Midwives Board of Australia and apply to all midwives. Current registration is a requirement of all midwifery employment, so an additional credentialling framework is not required. Expectations regarding recruitment, mandatory training, ongoing education, reflective practice, peer review and performance management should be identified and resourced in the model design and business case.

Midwives will no longer be required to undergo a credentialling process according to PD2005_615 in order to work in midwifery-managed models of care. However, Health Services must consider the needs of the model in terms of the skills of the midwifery workforce to be employed within it and must manage recruitment and performance accordingly.