

Midpoint

Midwifery Council New Zealand Newsletter

Guardians of Professional standards

► December 2017



The curtain is about to fall on 2017. On behalf of both Council members and staff, I thank you for all you do to provide New Zealand women and their families with a unique and deeply personal maternity service. Because of the nature of midwifery, many of you will still be working over the next month when so many other New Zealanders are enjoying holiday and special family time. The Council acknowledges and thanks you for this.

I wish you and your families a very happy and festive Christmas and New Year period and that in 2018, there will be even greater societal understanding and appreciation of the vital work midwives do.

Sharron Cole, CEO/Registrar,
Midwifery Council of New Zealand



APC applications for 2018/19 practising year

Online applications for your 2018/19 annual practising certificate will open in early February. We urge you to log on to the [website](#) well before then so that you remember how to do so.

If you have forgotten your password, click on Login tab on website homepage and then click “Request new password”. You will need to know the email address which is recorded for you in our Register.

When you are logged in, check your contact details are up to date and that our record of your Recertification Programme courses is up to date.

If you have completed a course that is not recorded in your record, please send us a copy of the course certificate. If it’s not recorded, that means we don’t know you have done it.

Payment for all applications must be made at the time of application. Unpaid applications will not be processed and will be declined.

The most convenient way of doing this is by clicking the credit card option. This will then give two options for payment:

- Credit card
- “Account2Account” (takes you to your internet banking site, with Midwifery Council details pre-loaded for you)

If you decide to pay by non “Account2Account” internet banking, your reference must include your midwifery registration ID number.

DHB midwives will have been told that the Midwifery Council has joined all other regulatory authorities in now being unable to offer the bulk funding option. This means you must pay the gazetted fee when you make your application and then seek reimbursement from your employer.

All midwives should print off the completion screen as this provides proof of your application. You will receive a receipt with your plastic APC card.

APC 2018/19

Online applications for your 2018/19 annual practising certificate will open at the beginning of February.



Learning from adverse advents

Each year, health care adverse events are reported to the [Health Quality & Safety Commission](#) by District Health Boards (DHBs) and other health care providers. The Commission works with these providers to encourage an open culture of reporting, to learn from what happened and put in place systems to reduce the risk of recurrence. Commission chair Professor Alan Merry says the adverse events report reflects a steady improvement in reporting culture towards increased transparency and taking action based on learnings from system failings.

A copy of the full adverse events report, as well as a questions and answers document, is available on the [Health Quality & Safety Commission](#) website.

Midwives will find the report interesting and informative, particularly those aspects relating to maternity.

Improvements in healthcare associated with infection is one of the key learnings within the report and an open book related to maternity can be found [here](#).



SmartStart

The Department of Internal Affairs, along with several other government agencies, have created an online service for new and expectant parents called SmartStart which has been available for almost one year. It is an online tool for parents that makes it easy for them to access government services and support during pregnancy, and the first years of their new baby. SmartStart provides users with integrated information about services provided by a range of agencies and NGOs to help parents check that they're not missing out on financial help and provides tips on keeping parents and baby healthy and safe. The link to SmartStart is on the Council's ["Expectant parents"](#) and ["For midwives"](#) webpages

ACC Foetal Anticonvulsant Syndrome

ACC has led the development of a series of resources for women and clinicians on the use of anti-epileptic medicines before and during pregnancy.

While many of the benefits and risks of taking

and may be asked questions about the safety of the medicine use.

In addition they could be the conduit for ensuring that the woman is referred to the necessary maternity services in line with the Referral Guidelines.

antiepileptic medicines during pregnancy are widely known already, there does not appear to have been a reduction in prescribing (particularly of sodium valproate) to women of child-bearing age.

In addition, as much of the harm can occur in early stages of pregnancy (before women are even aware they're pregnant), ACC is hoping to encourage early conversations between health professionals and women taking these medicines who are sexually active, whether or not they're planning to get pregnant.

While it is accepted that midwives would not prescribe these medicines, they can often be the woman's maternity primary care contact

ACC, the Ministry of Health, the Health Quality & Safety Commission, and Foetal Anti-Convulsant Syndrome New Zealand (FACS NZ) have worked with 15 clinicians and consumer advocates to create and distribute booklets for health professionals and women.

Please take a look at the resources and share them with colleagues and women you think they'd be valuable for. You're able to view [online versions](#) of the booklet and order free copies of these.

This notice is provided for your information only.



Guardians of professional standards

Children's core worker safety checks

As most midwives will know, core worker safety checks have been required since 2015 with all existing core workers (midwives) being required to be safety checked by 1 July 2018.

The Ministry of Health has an abundance of information regarding this requirement on its [website](#). If community midwives i.e. those claiming under the Primary Maternity Notice identify that they need to have a safety check, [CV Check](#) is the gazetted agency that completes this for the Ministry of Health.

Once a safety check has been completed, midwives claiming under the Primary Maternity notice are required to send evidence of their check to the Ministry using the instructions on the MOH web page. It may be that a midwife has already completed a safety check i.e. if they are also employed that their DHB employer has undertaken this.

In these circumstances, the safety check can be portable and an employer verification form can be completed and sent to the MOH.

However please note that the check must be of the same type i.e. existing worker or new worker. Safety checks last for three years and midwives claiming under the Primary Notice will be advised by CV check when their safety check is due to expire. This [document](#) provides information for midwives regarding the process of obtaining a Children's Worker Safety Check.

Employed midwives' safety checks are completed by the employer.

Why has the Council provided this information?

This is provided for information only and to facilitate midwives actioning this requirement. Please note that if the Council seeks a police check regarding a midwife, it is for a health practitioner regulatory process which is separate to the safety worker checks.



Therapeutic Products Regulatory Regime

Work continues on the Therapeutic Products Bill which is designed to replace the Medicines Act and Medicines Regulations. This will impact all prescribers. The Council is keeping a watching brief on the development of the legislation and will develop an expert advisory group to advise it during 2018.

HPDT decision: Ms Pania Lee Nin – Mid17/386P

Charge

The Tribunal considered a conviction charge by a Professional Conduct Committee appointed by the Midwifery Council of New Zealand against Ms Pania Lee Nin of Hamilton (the Midwife).

The Midwife was convicted and sentenced in the District Court at Hamilton of two representative charges against the Crimes Act of making false claims for maternity services and obtaining by deception a pecuniary advantage. The charge alleged that the convictions either separately or cumulatively, reflected adversely on the Midwife's fitness to practise in that she:

1. Between April 2008 and September 2011 submitted claims for payment to the Ministry of Health for lead maternity carer (LMC) services by falsely creating records for two women and 55 babies that did not exist and in doing so obtained by deception \$151,080.
2. Between September 2014 and December 2015 submitted claims for payment to the Ministry of Health for LMC services by falsely creating records for 3 women and 65 babies that did not exist and in doing so, obtained by deception the amount of \$206,059.09.

The Midwife did not attend the hearing but submitted correspondence to the Tribunal admitting her offending and accepting she has brought discredit to the profession as well as to herself, her family and friends.

Finding

The Tribunal found that the convictions did reflect adversely on the Midwife's fitness to practise. The fraud was sustained, premeditated and sophisticated and was fraud on a significant scale.

Penalty

As the Midwife did not offer any explanation for or in mitigation of her conduct, the Tribunal found it difficult to make a realistic assessment of the prospects of her rehabilitation in the future.

Given the seriousness of the fraud and having regard to previous decisions arising in comparable circumstances, the Tribunal censured the Midwife and ordered cancellation of her registration. Costs of 30% were also imposed to the sum of \$4,992.

The Tribunal directed publication of its decision, a summary or a reference to its decision.

A full decision of the Tribunal is available on its [website](#)

DIARY



3 January 2018

Closing date for submissions on 2018/19 APC fee

30 January - 1 February 2018

Council meeting

8 February 2018

APC applications open



Council offices

The Council is now located on:

Level 5, 22-28 Willeston St, Wellington.

Phone and fax remain the same but the postal address has changed to:

Midwifery Council of New Zealand
PO Box 9644
Wellington 6141

If you are not a practising midwife and do not wish to receive this newsletter please contact info@midwiferycouncil.health.nz



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