

Second Midwife Support Q&A

What is it?

1. What is the purpose of the new *second midwife support* service fee?

Second midwife support services are to be provided where there is a need for those services to enable safe primary midwifery care in the *LMC labour and birth* services delivered to a woman and/or her baby.

2. What is a ‘second midwife’?

A second midwife is a midwife practitioner who has authorisation to claim under the Notice and provides *second midwife support* at the request of the LMC midwife in special circumstances.

3. What is ‘second midwife support’?

It is the support provided during labour and birth in the **special circumstances** outlined in clause S1(2) of the definition to either temporarily replace or relieve an LMC midwife, or to provide additional maternity services alongside the LMC midwife to enable provision of safe primary midwifery care.

4. What are the special circumstances?

A situation where the LMC reasonably considers it unsafe for her to provide care alone without the support of a second midwife, or a situation where the LMC transfers clinical responsibility to the second midwife during labour and birth due to fatigue, illness, or personal crisis. As the Notice expects LMCs to ensure a second practitioner is available to attend homebirths, this fee is claimable for second midwife attendances at homebirths.

5. I think of a second midwife as the extra pair of hands I need at every birth. What is the difference between that second midwife and the *second midwife* support described in the Supplement?

The *second midwife support* module is only payable in ‘special circumstances’ and it is not expected that there will be ‘special circumstances’ at every birth. The assistance of a second midwife at most births will continue to be provided collegially by core midwives and/or through normal back-up practices.

6. Does it matter where the labour and birth occur?

No, it does not make a difference whether the labour and birth occurs in a maternity facility or at home, for example.

7. Is home birth a special circumstance?

Home birth is included in the *second midwife support service fee*.

8. What is meant by an ‘unanticipated personal crisis’?

Acute illness of a child or family member, or other similar unexpected event, is considered to be an unanticipated personal crisis.

9. What is meant by ‘onset of illness or injury to the LMC midwife’?

An LMC midwife may commence provision of labour and birth services in good health but subsequently be unable to continue due to onset of unanticipated illness or injury.

Who can provide second midwife support services?

10. What’s the difference between a second midwife and a back-up midwife LMC?

A second midwife is a midwife practitioner who has authorisation to claim under the Notice and provides *second midwife support* at the request of the LMC in special circumstances. The second midwife may only provide *second midwife support* to the LMC (or that LMC’s back-up) to support safe midwifery practice.

A back-up LMC is defined in section B5 of the Notice as a midwife¹ who has a formal relationship with the LMC to provide lead maternity care to women registered with the LMC when the LMC is not available to provide these services. Under the Notice the circumstances in which a back-up LMC would be called in are described in sections DA7 and DA23. A back-up LMC replaces the LMC when they are not available to attend the labour and birth for the various reasons set out in the Notice (and this includes where the LMC is unable to attend the birth because of holiday leave, sick leave, bereavement leave, continuing professional education requirements or other exceptional circumstances).

11. Can the back-up midwife be the second midwife?

Yes, the back-up midwife can act as the second midwife to support the LMC, provided she was not required to replace the LMC as the back-up LMC under DA7 and DA23(2)(e) of the Notice. The back-up midwife can act as either a back-up LMC or a second midwife for a given birth, but not both.

12. Can the second midwife be a core midwife?

The second midwife must be a midwife practitioner who has authorisation to claim under the Notice. Some core midwives are also authorised practitioners under the Notice. A core midwife who is on shift at the time of the request may not act as a second midwife and may not claim under the Notice. Clause CC2(1)(b) of the Notice states that no claim is payable where the services have been provided by a practitioner in their capacity as an employee of the DHB.

How do I claim and get paid?

13. How much is the fee?

\$512.50 excl GST

¹ Please note that although the Notice definition of a back-up LMC describes this person as a *midwife, general practitioner with a Diploma in Obstetrics (or equivalent, as determined by the New Zealand College of General Practitioners), or obstetrician* the Second Midwife Support Services Supplement pertains only to midwives.

14. Who claims the second midwife fee?

This fee is directly claimable by the second midwife via the *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* module.

15. How do I claim it?

The *second midwife support* services are to be claimed via the Primary Maternity Services Notice payment module identifier for *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* under clause DB15 of the Notice. Information about claiming processes are available through practice management systems, IT vendors, and directly from the Ministry of Health.

16. Does this mean that the original Notice definition for *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* no longer exists?

No, claims can be made under both the new supplemental second midwife definition and the Notice definition of the module, with some provisos.

17. Is this second midwife fee only for rural births?

No, it can be claimed for any birth in which the requirements of *second midwife support* services are met.

18. Is this fee only for midwives supporting LMC midwives?

Yes.

19. What is the 'date of service'?

Record the date of service as the commencement date and time of in-person attendance to provide *second midwife support* services.

20. What do I have to do to qualify for this fee?

Second midwife support requires provision of in-person midwife support to an LMC midwife for a minimum of 90 minutes during labour and birth.

21. Does the minimum of 90 minutes mean only in-person attendance or can it also mean 'on the phone' support?

In-person attendance means physical attendance during the labour and birth to support the LMC midwife.

22. What happens if I intended to provide *second midwife support* services for the minimum time but circumstances have arisen and I have not spent the full 90 minutes assisting in person?

The Ministry will consider claims that do not fully comply with the Supplement on a case by case basis. You can apply to have your circumstances and claim considered by contacting the Ministry through your usual avenue (your vendor or by email to claims@moh.govt.nz).

23. Can I claim for *second midwife support* more than once per day?

You can claim more than once per day if *second midwife support* services were provided at the births of **different women** on the same day.

24. Can there be more than one *second midwife support* claim per birth?

No, only one *second midwife support* fee can be claimed under the Supplemental second midwife definition per birth (including multiples).

25. Can the second midwife also claim the DB15 *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* fee if she has to accompany the woman or her baby on an air or road ambulance transfer after providing second midwife support services?

Yes, the second midwife can claim the both under the Supplemental second midwife definition and the Notice definition for *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)*. See the claims process at question 27.

26. Can there be a claim under the original DB15 Notice definition for the *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* fee and for the supplemental second midwife fee for the same birth by different midwives?

Yes, but only when the *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* service was provided by a party other than the LMC (or their back-up) or the second midwife (that is, three midwives or other appropriate professionals in total were required to attend a rural birth and performed LMC labour and birth, *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* and *second midwife services*. See the claims process at question 27.

27. What is the claim process when two claims by the same midwife are permitted under DB15 for the same labour and birth event (as identified above)?

These instructions are only for use when:

- ✓ you are making a claim as for *second midwife support* AND
- ✓ you also wish to make a claim under *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* for attendance in an air or road ambulance for the same birth

Note that the Ministry system will not accept two claims under the Notice definition of *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* and for the *second midwife support* fee from the same midwife for the same birth.

- 1 Submit both claims as usual via your vendor, the Ministry of Health's Online Maternity Claiming System, or by paper claiming under the *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* module
- 2 Concurrently send a communication to the Ministry, for example an email to claims@moh.govt.nz (make sure it is transferred securely) or send the information via post
- 3 Use the following in the subject line of the communication: **Dual claim for Non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)**

4	<p>Include the following in the communication:</p> <p>Notification that two claims have been submitted under the non-LMC labour and <i>birth (rural support)</i> module</p> <p>Provide your name and registration number (as the non-LMC midwife)</p> <p>Provide the NHI number of the woman</p> <p>Date of birth of the baby</p> <p>Date of service</p> <p>Date of claim</p> <p>Provide the rural domicile code</p> <p>Provide the reason for the air or road ambulance transfer, including a description of the clinical situation, and in particular what referral code/s were used to (eventually or virtually) transfer the woman or baby to secondary care</p>
5	One of the two claims will be processed automatically as usual
6	The second claim will be declined initially but payment will be processed separately after approval

28. I usually claim the birthing unit support fee and pay my second midwife that fee. Can I continue to do that?

No. The birthing unit support fee is an obsolete module that was superseded by the Primary Maternity Facility Service Specification in 2012.

29. What happens if the second midwife isn't an authorised practitioner under the Notice? Can I claim on her behalf and give her the money?

No. Midwives wishing to provide *second midwife support* must be authorised practitioners. The *second midwife support* fee can only be claimed by a non-LMC midwife.

30. What information does the LMC midwife and the second midwife have to record in their clinical notes to support a claim for the second midwife fee?

There needs to be a record of the reason why the *second midwife support* is required, the name and registration number of the second midwife, the date and times of second midwife attendance and the time of transfer of clinical responsibility to the second midwife (if that occurs).

The registration number for the second midwife is needed for administrative efficiency should there be an audit and because the name a midwife goes by may not be the name recorded against her authorisation to claim for primary maternity services.

31. I attended a labour and provided second midwife support for my practice partner in July 2018. What documentation do I need to provide evidence of a claim for this fee?

See question 30.

Scenarios

Example 1

An LMC midwife has attended a woman in labour on and off at the woman's home and then at a primary birthing unit over the last 24 hours. Labour is now established and progressing normally, but the LMC anticipates that the woman still has some hours to go and feels her ability to practice safely is compromised. The LMC calls her back-up to attend the woman for the remainder of her labour and birth and hands over care.

Clinical responsibility – LMC transfers this to the back-up LMC

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

Back-up LMC eligible to claim *second midwife support* – YES

Example 2

An LMC midwife is on a rostered weekend off. Her back-up has attended a woman labouring in hospital for the last 8 hours. Labour is progressing normally, but the back-up LMC anticipates the woman still has some hours to go and feels her ability to practice safely is compromised. She calls another colleague from her practice to attend the woman for the remainder of her labour and birth and hands over care.

Clinical responsibility – LMC transfers this to the back-up LMC who then transfers it to another midwife

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES (with the expectation of usual arrangements for disbursement to back-up or cover in kind)

Other midwife eligible to claim *second midwife support* – YES

Example 3

An LMC midwife attended a labour and birth the previous evening and got home at 2am. At 8am another client calls to say she is in labour and on her way to hospital. The LMC midwife decides she is too fatigued to practice safely at this time and calls her back-up to attend the woman instead. After a few hours rest, the LMC swaps with her back-up and attends the remainder of the woman's labour and birth.

Clinical responsibility – LMC transfers this to the back-up LMC who then transfers it back to the LMC

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

Back-up LMC eligible to claim *second midwife support* – YES

Example 4

An LMC midwife is attending a woman in labour who is having a home birth. The LMC calls a second midwife to provide additional primary maternity care during

second stage and the birth. The second midwife attends alongside the LMC, and provides *second midwife support* services for 90 minutes.

No transfer of clinical responsibility

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

LMC eligible to claim *home birth supplies and support* – YES

Second midwife eligible to claim *second midwife support* – YES

Example 5

An LMC midwife is attending a woman in labour in hospital. The ward is extremely short staffed and unable to provide a core midwife to assist the midwife LMC so the LMC calls her back-up to provide additional primary maternity care (acting as the routinely required extra pair of hands) during the birth.

No transfer of clinical responsibility

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

Back-up LMC eligible to claim *second midwife support* – NO

Example 6

An LMC midwife is on a rostered weekend off. Her back-up has attended a labour and birth in her absence which did not require support from another community primary midwife.

Clinical responsibility – LMC transfers this to the back-up LMC

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES (with the expectation of usual arrangements for disbursement to back-up or cover in kind)

Back-up LMC eligible to claim *second midwife support* – NO

Example 7

An LMC midwife calls her midwife colleague to support a rural or remote rural birth with complications requiring the services of an obstetrician or paediatrician where neither are available.

No transfer of clinical responsibility between the midwives

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

Second practitioner eligible to claim *second midwife support* – NO

Second practitioner eligible to claim *non-LMC labour and birth (rural support)* – YES

Example 8

An LMC midwife is attending a woman in labour. During provision of labour and birth care the LMC midwife gets an urgent call from home to say that one of her children has broken his leg. The LMC midwife calls her back-up LMC to attend the woman for the remainder of her labour and birth and hands over care.

Clinical responsibility – LMC transfers this to the back-up LMC

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

Back-up LMC eligible to claim *second midwife support* – YES

Example 9

An LMC midwife has attended a woman in labour for coming up to 24 hours. The labour is progressing normally and the woman is nearing second stage but the LMC feels her ability to practice safely is compromised due to increasing tiredness. She calls her back-up LMC to attend with her for the remainder of the labour and birth to support the provision of safe care in the second and third stages and in the immediate postpartum period.

No transfer of clinical responsibility between the midwives

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

Back-up LMC eligible to claim *second midwife support* – YES

Example 10

An LMC midwife has spent the day with a woman in labour and is heading off to bed at 10pm when she is called by another woman in labour. The LMC midwife attends the labour which is progressing normally. By 3am the LMC anticipates the woman still has some hours to go and feels her ability to practice safely is compromised as she has now been awake for 21 hours. She calls her back-up LMC (who has had some sleep) to attend for the remainder of the labour and birth and she goes home to bed.

Clinical responsibility – LMC transfers this to the back-up LMC

LMC eligible to claim *labour and birth* module – YES

Back-up LMC eligible to claim *second midwife support* – YES