

## Second Midwife Support Services Supplement (the Supplement)

### This is a Supplement to the Primary Maternity Services Notice 2007 (the Notice)

The Ministry has agreed to fund the provision of second midwife support services as a new and additional service under the Notice. Second midwife support services are to be provided where there is a need for those services to provide safe midwifery care in the LMC labour and birth services delivered to a woman and / or her baby.

The Ministry sets out in this Supplement the requirements that must be met for a second midwife to claim the second midwife support fee of \$512.50, GST exclusive. Claims for payment for second midwife support must only be made if the second midwife and the midwife LMC have met all of the requirements set out in this Supplement, in addition to other Notice requirements related to delivery of services and payment processes.

- These 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. This is an interim measure while a wider review of maternity funding and payment is undertaken.
- This Supplement will apply to the provision of second midwife support services on or after 1 July 2018 (the commencement date). Claims for payment may be made to the Ministry for second midwife support that have been provided after the commencement date as long as the submission of the claim for payment does not occur until after 17 September 2018.
- Submission of a claim for payment by a second midwife under DB15 of the Notice will be deemed to be acceptance by the second midwife of all of the terms set out in this Supplement.

B5 Additional definition 2018:

**second midwife** is a midwife practitioner who has authorisation to claim under the Notice and provides second midwife support.

**second midwife support** is the support provided during labour and birth in the special circumstances outlined in clause S1(2) below to either temporarily replace or relieve a midwife LMC or back-up LMC midwife or to provide additional maternity services alongside the midwife LMC or back-up LMC midwife to support provision of safe primary maternity care.

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*Module: Second midwife support*

*This is to be read as an addition or supplement\* to the Notice clause DB15 service specification: non-LMC labour and birth (rural support) to enable claims to be submitted for the new second midwife support services.*

*\*Note: The Notice provisions DB15 and DB16 will continue to apply to non-LMC labour and birth (rural support) in accordance with the existing Notice terms of DB15 and DB16. This Supplement provides for the additional service second midwife support that will apply in accordance with the terms of this Supplement and is not limited to services provided in rural areas. If a claim is made for second midwife support under clause DB15 of the Notice, no claim may be made for non-LMC labour and birth, and vice versa other than under S2(5)(b).*

**S1 Service specification: Second midwife support for labour and birth**

- (1) The aim of second midwife support is to support provision of safe maternity care in the special circumstances outlined in S1(2), and when no other payment module applies.
- (2) The second midwife must provide to a woman the labour and birth services as required to support the midwife LMC<sup>1</sup> (including that midwife LMC's back-up LMC midwife if they are providing the labour and birth services in place of the midwife LMC) during that labour and birth when the following special circumstances in either (a) or (b) apply:
  - a. Where provision of maternity care by the midwife LMC alone during labour and birth could compromise the safety of that care, and the midwife LMC reasonably considers it is unsafe for her to proceed alone without the provision of second midwife services alongside the midwife LMC; or
  - b. Where the midwife LMC transfers clinical responsibility to the second midwife to ensure the maternity care is not compromised while the midwife LMC requires relief from that labour and birth service provision due to:
    - i. Fatigue arising from extended provision of labour and birth services; or
    - ii. Onset of illness or injury to the midwife LMC during provision of the labour and birth services; or
    - iii. Unanticipated personal crisis experienced by the midwife LMC during provision of labour and birth services.
- (3) The midwife LMC and the second midwife must ensure that there is auditable documentation (which must be produced, on request, to any auditors) in the woman's notes of the following matters:

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<sup>1</sup> These services may be provided at any location where the midwife LMC is providing labour and birth services including but not limited to a maternity facility or home birth.

- a. the reason second midwife support is required;
  - b. the name and registration number of the second midwife;
  - c. the date and time of attendance (beginning and end times during which second midwife support was provided); and
  - d. the time of the transfer of clinical responsibility should this occur under S1(2)b.
- (4) Second midwife support requires provision of in-person midwife support for a minimum of 90 minutes during labour and birth.

## **S2 Payment rules: Second midwife support**

- (1) The midwife LMC who requests second midwife support must be eligible under the Notice to claim a labour and birth fee for the woman or must be the named back-up LMC midwife attending the labour and birth in place of the midwife LMC who is eligible to claim a labour and birth fee for the woman.
- (2) The second midwife must hold relevant Access Agreements with any facility they provide services in and be authorised to claim under the Primary Maternity Services Notice.
- (3) Only one (1) second midwife support fee is payable for a labour and birth (including a multiple birth), and clause DB16 has no application to the second midwife support fee.
- (4) The second midwife support fee must be claimed by and paid to the second midwife.
- (5) If the second midwife support fee is claimed, no claim for the following services may be made in respect of that second midwife supported labour and birth event:
  - a. Birthing unit support; or
  - b. Non-LMC labour and birth (rural support) under clause DB15 except in either of the following situations when:
    - i. that non-LMC labour and birth service was provided by a party other than the midwife LMC (or their backup LMC midwife) or the second midwife (i.e three midwives or other appropriate professionals in total were required to attend a rural birth and perform LMC labour and birth, non-LMC labour and birth (rural support) and second midwife services); or
    - ii. the second midwife provides second midwife support as outlined in S1(2) and then provides the service in DB15 to accompany the woman in an air / road ambulance from a rural or remote domicile<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> If this exception applies the second midwife must forward their claim to [claims@moh.govt.nz](mailto:claims@moh.govt.nz) to enable the two claims under DB15 for the same day, for the same midwife, to be paid where appropriate.

- (6) A midwife who is the back-up midwife for a midwife LMC may be the second midwife for the purposes of this clause S1, but only when they are providing second midwife support as described in clause S1, and not when the midwife LMC was required to arrange back-up LMC midwife support under the terms of the Notice.
- a. A back-up LMC midwife is defined in section B5 of the Notice as a midwife who has a formal relationship with the midwife LMC to provide lead maternity care to women registered with the midwife LMC when the midwife LMC is not available to provide these services.
  - b. Under the Notice the circumstances in which a back-up LMC midwife would be called in are described in sections DA7 and DA23(1)(e)<sup>3</sup>. A back-up LMC midwife replaces the midwife LMC when they are not available to attend labour and birth for the various reasons set out in the Notice, while the second midwife may only provide second midwife support to the midwife LMC (or that midwife LMC's back-up LMC midwife) to support safe midwifery practice as outlined in clause S1(2).

### **S3 Termination of this Supplement**

The Ministry will give at least 30 days prior written notice if it is to terminate or amend the terms of this Supplement.

### **S4 Audit**

The audit provisions of the Notice, including in particular clause CB2, will apply to any claims made under this Supplement.

### **S5 Exclusion**

This Supplement does not apply to general practitioners or obstetricians, whether they are providing LMC or back-up LMC care and they may not claim second midwife support services.

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<sup>3</sup> The following points are provided for under DA23(1)(e) – the midwife LMC must have back up – this is not a second midwife situation: ‘if a LMC is unable to attend the birth because of holiday leave, sick leave, bereavement leave, continuing professional education requirements or other exceptional circumstances, the LMC must make appropriate other arrangements with a back-up LMC.’