

Consensus Statement: **Midwives Using Ultrasound**

The New Zealand College of Midwives (NZCOM) position on midwives performing ultrasound for diagnostic purposes is that it is not a core competency required of a registered midwife in New Zealand.

The NZCOM recognise that some individual midwives develop the ability to perform ultrasound during pregnancy for diagnostic purposes while working under the supervision of Registered Medical Radiation Technologists or other suitably qualified practitioners.

Registered Midwives performing ultrasound for diagnostic purposes should have undertaken a recognised education programme; otherwise they should refer clients to appropriately qualified practitioners.

The New Zealand College of Midwives does not endorse the extension of the midwife's role into other spheres of practice when this does not demonstrably improve the quality of services to women.

References:

1. NZ College of Midwives. (2008). *Midwives Handbook for Practice*. New Zealand College of Midwives.
2. Notice of Scopes of Practice and Related Qualifications Prescribed by The Midwifery Council
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http://www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz/content/library/Gazette_Notice_scope_qualifications.pdf
3. International Confederation of Midwives. (2005). Definition of the Midwife. ICM
4. Bricker, L., Garcia, J., Henderson, J., Mugford, M., Neilson, J., Roberts, Martin, M. (2000).
A. Ultrasound Screening in pregnancy: a systematic review of the clinical effectiveness, cost effectiveness and women's views. *Health Technology Assessment*; Vol 4 (16).
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Ratification:

This Consensus Statement was ratified at AGM October 2006

The purpose of New Zealand College of Midwives Consensus Statements is to provide women, midwives and the maternity services with the profession's position on any given situation. The guidelines are designed to educate and support best practice. All position statements are regularly reviewed and updated in line with evidence-based practice.