



Clinical Midwifery Specialists (Endorsed) Policy

1. Background

Clinical Midwifery Specialists – Endorsed (CMS – Endorsed) employed by WACHS can prescribe and order diagnostics as per the current legislation to support the delivery of safe and high quality maternal and newborn health care within the WA Country Health Service.

2. Policy Statement

This policy provides a standardised governance process and defines the employment pathways for Endorsed Midwives within specific organisational settings.

CMS – Endorsed positions will not be supplemental workforce and will be an alternative for existing clinical midwife positions.

2.1 Procedure

2.1.1 Clinical Governance

Overall clinical governance must be provided by the direct line manager as stated in the job description of the CMS - Endorsed.

In order to ensure appropriate clinical governance of the role, CMS – Endorsed midwives must:

- be registered as a Midwife with notation as endorsed to prescribe scheduled medicines by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA)
- maintain ongoing competence in accordance with designation and scope of practice as per NMBA requirements
- undertakes performance development at least annually with their line manager and/or person responsible for clinical accountability
- have Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Prescriber and a Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) Provider numbers.

2.1.2 Employment Pathways for the CMS- Endorsed

There are four (4) pathways under which a CMS - Endorsed can be employed:

1. Within a Midwifery Group Practice.
2. On a maternity ward.
3. In community practice settings.
4. Any of the above - with Medicare revenue generation capability at Commonwealth 19(2) exemption sites. See [link](#) for list of current sites. Sites wishing to pursue 19(2) exemption must liaise with their Regional Director of Nursing and Midwifery for the process.

Clinical Midwife Specialist - Endorsed
Employment pathways

MGP	Hospital	Community	s 19 (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One per midwife pair • Care across continuum • Would plan visits for diagnostics to occur with that midwife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific to context of role: • Antenatal clinics • Lactation consultant • Visiting midwifery services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One per location • Antenatal care • Postnatal care • Would plan visits for diagnostics to occur with that midwife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All midwives • Outpatient antenatal services • Outpatient postnatal services • Inpatient services but would not generate MBS income

The employed CMS - Endorsed may admit women under their care only when there is a local endorsed procedure in place. CMS - Endorsed employed at 19(2) sites will generate revenue for their health service under Medicare as per the WACHS [defined process](#)

2.1.3 Clinical Guidelines

WACHS has endorsed specific policies, guidelines and procedures covering a range of matters relating to maternity care clinical practice. WACHS specific policies and guidelines related to the provision of maternity care can be found on HealthPoint.

a) Clinical practice guidelines

As per [Maternity and Newborn Care Guidelines – Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice Policy](#)

b) Medication prescribing

The CMS - Endorsed must prescribe medication within the legislative parameters and their scope of practice according to Regulation 57 of the WA [Medicines and Poisons Regulation 2016](#).

When prescribing non-PBS medications, the CMS Endorsed must utilise the health service / hospital pharmacy prescription and service to avoid out of pocket costs to the woman.

c) Ordering diagnostics

The CMS - Endorsed can order diagnostics according to the MBS items numbers for midwives.

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Home>

The CMS - Endorsed is accountable for reviewing interpreting and acting on diagnostics finding, including referral to Medical Practitioners where indicated.

Where the CMS - Endorsed may not be available when results are received the request form must include a courtesy copy (cc) to the responsible Medical Practitioner.

At sites without Commonwealth 19(2) exemption the CMS –Endorsed position must request outpatient diagnostics utilising the health service /hospital service providers to avoid out of pocket costs to the woman.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Clinical midwife specialist (CMS) - endorsed	An individual midwife registered by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia who holds an endorsement as a midwife eligible to prescribe, administer and supply scheduled medicines in accordance with state and territory legislation and is employed by WACHS
Continuum of midwifery care	Incorporates antenatal care, intrapartum care and postnatal care for women and their infants, includes clinical assessment, exercise of clinical judgement, planning, implementation, monitoring and review, responding to maternity emergencies, assessment and care of the newborn infant, management and administration of medicines, judicious use of diagnostic investigations
Scope of Clinical Practice	Refers to the type of services that an individual endorsed midwife is approved to provide at a health care facility

4. Roles and Responsibilities

WACHS Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery Services (EDNMS)

The EDNMS is responsible for determining areas of need for employing CMS - Endorsed with the relevant Regional Director of Nursing and Midwifery.

WACHS Regional Director Nursing and Midwifery Services (RDNMS)

The RDNMS is responsible for oversight of revenue generation and acquittal for CMS - Endorsed activity at 19(2) sites.

Managers

Line managers of CMS - Endorsed positions are responsible for:

- ensuring all staff are aware of the roles and responsibilities of the CMS – Endorsed.
- Annual employee development of CMS – Endorsed employees

WACHS Midwifery Advisory Forum

The Midwifery Advisory Forum are to:

- provide advice and governance around CMS - Endorsed policy and practice
- review and advise on matters relating to the CMS - Endorsed scope of practice
- advise on matters referred in relation to CMS – Endorsed.

Clinical Midwifery Specialists - Endorsed

Clinical Midwifery Specialists - Endorsed are to:

- provide midwifery care and intervention within their scope of practice and in accordance with their NMBA endorsement requirements
- consult and refer as per the Australian College of Midwives (ACM) National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral (NMGCR)
- contribute to effective service delivery through providing clinical leadership
- contribute to the development of staff through provision of education, mentoring and clinical guidelines.
- Clinical Midwifery Specialists – Endorsed must take responsibility to record and report outpatient/clinic activity as per the [MP 0087/18 Non-Admitted Activity Recording and Reporting Policy](#). Including:
 - setting up webPAS Tier 2 clinics for antenatal, postnatal and education clinics/classes; **and**
 - documenting visits appropriately so that they can attract the correct funding i.e. Postnatal appointments can be captured as one (1) appointment for mother and one (1) appointment for the newborn
 - use of the appropriate maternity outpatient medical records (MR 8A, B, C or D) for unplanned maternal or newborn presentations
- Refer to the WACHS [non-admitted activity intranet page](#) for more information
- Clinical Midwifery Specialists- Endorsed employed at 19(2) exempt sites must work with their Health Service Manager or delegated persons to implement correct Medicare revenue generation process (which is additional revenue to usual outpatient activity based funding processes) as per the [WACHS 19\(2\) Exemptions initiative](#).
- Participate in annual employee development

5. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) (HSA) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

6. Records Management

All WACHS corporate records must be stored in the approved Electronic Documents and Records Management System in accordance with [Records Management Policy](#).

All WACHS clinical records must be managed in accordance with [Health Record Management Policy](#).

7. Evaluation

Evaluation and feedback processes are required to monitor compliance. Maternity managers must evaluate this policy, evaluation will occur through the Midwifery Advisory Forum as a standing agenda item.

8. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#)

Clinical Governance Standard: 1.1.c, 1.1.e, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6.a, 1.6.b, 1.7.a, 1.7.b, 1.22.a, 1.23.a, 1.23.b, 1.27.a

Medication Safety Standard: 4.1.a, 4.4

9. Legislation

The [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2010](#) (WA) provides for registration accreditation of education programs.

Medicare [Remote Area 19 \(2\) exemptions](#) The basis of the initiative is that to improve access to primary care in rural and remote areas, the Australian Government will allow Medicare benefits to be claimed in respect of bulk-billed, non-admitted, non-referred professional services provided in emergency departments and outpatient clinics at some small rural hospitals. The patient is not charged a co-payment for services. Medicare benefits may be claimed by medical practitioners, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals under the 19(2) exemption.

Regulation 57 of the WA [Medicines and Poisons Regulation 2016](#) is now consistent with a scope of practice model for endorsed midwives,

Medicare Benefits Schedule

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Home>

10. References

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia [Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines for Midwives](#)

11. Related Forms

Nil

12. Related Policy Documents

WACHS [Maternity and Newborn Care Guidelines – Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice Policy](#)

13. Related WA Health System Policies

Nil

14. Policy Framework

[Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality](#)

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with a disability**

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