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### ACCESS TO SUPERVISORS OF MIDWIVES

**Guideline produced by:** West of Scotland Supervisors of Midwives  
Guideline Development Group

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**Approved by:** Supervisors of Midwives Guideline Development Group and the Local Supervising Authority Midwifery Officer

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NMC (2004) Midwives rules and standards - Rule 12, describes access to statutory supervision. In addition, a list of the names and workplace of all Supervisors of Midwives practising within the West of Scotland is sent out regularly by the LSA, to the Link Supervisor for each Unit. This list is updated and circulated at least annually.

#### **Continuous access by all Midwives to a Supervisor of Midwives**

All midwives, whether practising within the NHS, in independent practice, or within other establishments (e.g. HM prisons, GP practices) must have access to a Supervisor of Midwives at all times, (NMC 2004 Midwives rules and standards - Rule 12).

To ensure compliance, the LSA will:

- Work towards ensuring a ratio of Supervisors to Midwives of no more than 1: 15.

#### **Supervisors of Midwives within each LSA should:-**

1. Inform each midwife of her named Supervisor of Midwives.
2. Ensure midwives are aware of local arrangements to change their named Supervisor of Midwives.
3. Publish arrangements for the availability of Supervisors of Midwives.
4. Ensure access to Supervisors of Midwives by the public.
5. Ensure that where there are insufficient Supervisors available within a LSA, appropriate arrangements are made with neighbouring LSA for a Supervisor of Midwives to be accessible for advice. LSAMO will coordinate any necessary arrangements.
6. Where such arrangements are made with neighbouring LSA it is essential that those Supervisors of Midwives know how to access the policies and protocols of the unit in which they will be giving advice.
7. Forward plan to ensure that appropriate ratios of Supervisors to midwives are maintained.