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PROVIDING SUPPORT TO STUDENT MIDWIVES IN PRACTICE

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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Supervision must provide proactive support for midwifery students in the exercise of their practice. Supervisors currently do not have statutory supervisory responsibility for student midwives, however, the NMC (2004) Midwives rules and standards – Rule 12, clearly states that students must be supported by the supervisory framework.

Each NHS Board must have a system to ensure that student midwives gain knowledge of supervision, are supported and can easily access supervision - in the same way they would expect midwives to.

There are four options for a suggested framework: -

1. A nominated Supervisor of Midwives within the unit acts as a contact point for students.
2. A nominated Supervisor of Midwives within the student's clinical placement area acts as a contact point for students.
3. A nominated Supervisor of Midwives acts as the named Supervisor for each cohort of students.
4. Student midwives are added to the caseloads of all Supervisors.

The West of Scotland LSAs considers it good practice for a student midwife to have a named Supervisor of Midwives. This Supervisor should, ideally, remain as her named Supervisor and contact point for the duration of the programme of education. This will ensure that statutory supervision becomes a meaningful, lived concept for the student midwife and will enable her to engage with supervision in practice.

Educational institutions should ensure that the link lecturer liaises with Supervisors of Midwives to ensure feedback on practice issues that concern students and similarly, Supervisors should provide information/feedback to the link lecturers at the educational institutions.

KEY POINTS

- Student midwives need to be made aware of the West of Scotland framework for Supervision at the commencement of training, and of local arrangements at the beginning of their clinical placement.
- Students should have access to "Modern Supervision in Action" (NMC/LSA Midwifery Officers Forum UK 2008).



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References

NMC/LSA Midwifery Officers Forum UK (2008), *Modern Supervision in Action*, NMC, London.

NMC (2004) *Midwives rules and standards*. NMC, London.