

Glossary of terms for standards for supervisors of midwives consultation document

Approved education institutions (AEIs) are providers that meet the Nursing and Midwifery Council's (NMC) requirements to run approved programmes of nursing and midwifery education. Programmes are delivered in partnership between higher education institutions and practice settings, where students learn from working directly with service users and carers.

Guidance *should* be followed and reflects what the Council believes is best practice. Failure to follow guidance may be taken account of if a nurse or midwife's fitness to practice has been called into question.

Local supervising authorities (LSAs) are organisations that hold statutory roles and responsibilities for supporting and monitoring the quality of midwifery practice through the method of statutory supervision of midwives. The LSA has a crucial role in clinical governance and public safety by ensuring the standards for the supervision of midwives and midwifery practice meet our requirements. LSAs sit within strategic organisations such as an NHS authority and the type of organisation varies in each country of the UK.

Local supervising authority midwifery officer (LSAMO) The LSAMO puts the responsibilities of the LSA into practice and this work cannot be delegated to another person or another role. The LSAMO is a practising midwife who provides leadership, support and guidance primarily on midwifery practice and the supervision of midwives. .

Rules *must* be complied with. These are statutory, drafted by our solicitors and subject to approval by the Privy Council. The Midwives Rules and standards (2012) are one example.

Standards We are required to establish standards of education, training, conduct and performance for nurses and midwives. Standards *must* be complied with. Failure to comply may bring a nurse's or midwife's fitness to practice into question and endanger their ability to practise.

Supervisor of midwives (SoM) Supervisors of midwives are experienced midwives who have undergone additional education and training in the knowledge and skills needed to supervise midwives. They can only be appointed by an LSA, not by an employer, and act as an impartial monitor of the environment of care and the safety of midwives' practice. They are responsible to the LSA for all their supervisory activities. By appointing a SoM, the LSA ensures that support, advice and guidance are available for women and midwives 24 hours a day to increase public protection. SoMs have a responsibility to bring to the attention of the LSA any practice or service issues that might put at risk a midwife's ability to care for women and their babies.

the Order The role and responsibilities of the NMC are governed by the Nursing and Midwifery Order (the Order, Statutory instrument 2002/253), as amended from time to time. The NMC is the professional regulatory body for nurses and midwives in the UK. Our role is to protect patients and the public through efficient and effective regulation of nurses and midwives. We set and promote standards of education and practice, maintain a register of those who meet these standards and take action when a nurse or midwife's fitness to practise is called into question.

