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MIDWIVES REGULATIONS

This version is out of date

Subsidiary  
1948.03.24

Regulations made as rules under the Midwives Act (Act, 1947-05), saved and deemed to have been made under s.36.

MIDWIVES REGULATIONS

(1948.03.24)

24.3.1948

Amending enactments	Relevant current provisions	Commencement date
Rules of 18.8.1954	rr. 2, 26, 30(1) and 31(1)	
Regs of 28.5.1970	rr. 31(2) and 32	
LN. 1976/133	Sch.	

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**Title.**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Midwives Regulations.

**Interpretation.**

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“approved training institution” means an institution approved by the Board for the training of pupils, and in relation to either the first or second period of training means an institution approved in respect of that period;

“lecturer” means a person approved by the Board as a lecturer in subjects in which instruction is required by these regulations or the Board;

“prescribed form” means such form as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time;

“puerperal fever” means any febrile condition in a woman in whom a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Centigrade) or more has occurred within fourteen days after child-birth or miscarriage;

“roll” means the list of pupils kept in accordance with these rules;

“secretary” means the secretary of the Board;

“teacher” means a person approved by the Board as a teacher of pupils, and the words “a teacher” may be read as referring to two or more such persons.

**Fitness of candidates.**

3.(1) Notwithstanding anything hereinafter contained the Board may refuse to enrol as a pupil, or to admit to examination or to the register, or to issue a certificate to, any woman whom it considers to be physically, mentally or morally unfit to be a midwife.

(2) In the event of a woman proposing to become a pupil, or being a pupil presenting to the Board a birth, baptismal, marriage, or other document required by these regulations, which has been altered or falsified in any way, the Board shall be entitled to postpone her enrolment as a pupil or her admission to examination, or to refuse to enroll her as a pupil, or to admit her to examination or to the register.

### **Suspension of regulations.**

4. The Board with the consent of the Governor may dispense with the requirements of any of these regulations in any case in which it thinks fit.

### ENROLMENT OF PUPILS.

### **Application for enrolment.**

5. A woman proposing to become a pupil shall apply, through the approved training institution at which she proposes to take the first period of her training, to the Board, on the prescribed form and in her own handwriting, to have her name entered upon the roll, and shall at the same time produce—

- (a) (i) if her name appears on the general part of the Register of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, the General Nursing Council for Scotland, the Joint Nursing and Midwives Council for Northern Ireland, the General Nursing Council for Eire, or of any other bodies lawfully succeeding these bodies, by virtue of having passed the examination of one of those bodies or some other examination recognised by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and she has had at least three years general training or any equivalent thereto which may from time to time be recognised by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, evidence satisfactory to the Board that she has fulfilled the foregoing requirements;
- (ii) in any other case, evidence satisfactory to the Board as to the general education which she has had;
- (b) a certificate of birth or infant baptism, or such other evidence as to her age as is satisfactory to the Board, and, if she is or has been married, the certificate of marriage, or such other evidence of marriage as is satisfactory to the Board;
- (c) two certificates from persons of responsible position to the effect that they have known the applicant for a period of at least twelve months immediately prior to the date of her application, and that they are satisfied that she is trustworthy, sober, and of good moral character.

### **Age of enrolment.**

6. A woman shall not be enrolled as a pupil if she is under the age of 19 years or, save at the discretion of the Board in exceptional cases, if she is over the age of 35 years.

**Erasure from roll.**

7. The names of all pupils who have been on the roll for five years and have not been admitted to the register shall be erased from the roll. The Board may, however, restore to the roll for such period as it thinks fit, any names so erased.

**Unsuitable pupils.**

8. A report from the approved training institution shall be made to the Board within six calendar months from the beginning of a pupil's first period of training if the general education of the pupil is inadequate or she is otherwise unsuited to be a midwife. On consideration of such a report the Board may remove the name of the pupil from the roll.

**COURSE OF TRAINING.****Scope of training.**

9.(1) The training of a pupil shall comprise such theoretical, practical and clinical instruction, and attendance on and nursing of cases as the Board shall require. The training shall be at an approved training institution and under lecturers and teachers and shall be in two periods: (i) a first period which the pupil shall complete before presenting herself for the first examination, and (ii) a second period which the pupil shall complete before presenting herself for the second examination.

(2) All practical instruction shall be carried out under the supervision of a teacher.

**Pupil to devote whole time to work.**

10. A pupil shall, except during such holidays as may be permitted by the Board, devote the whole of both periods of her training to preparation for her examinations, and must not be engaged on any other work of whatsoever nature.

**Beginning of training.**

11. A pupil shall not begin her training until she has been notified by the secretary that her name has been entered on the roll, and immediately she begins the first period of training she shall forward to the Board a certificate signed by a teacher as to the date of the beginning of training.

### **Length of first period of training.**

12.(1) The first period of training shall extend over six consecutive calendar months in the case of pupils to whom regulation 5(a)(i) applies and over eighteen consecutive calendar months in all other cases.

### **Commencement of second period.**

13. (1) On beginning her second period of training a pupil shall forward to the Board a certificate, signed by a teacher, giving the name of the approved training institution at which the training will be received and the date of the beginning of training.

(2) A pupil may begin the second period of training after completing the first period and prior to passing the first examination, but if she is not successful at the first examination on the first occasion on which she is entitled to enter for it, any part of the second period of training which she may have completed before passing the first examination shall not be counted towards the period prescribed in regulation 15.

### **Late commencement of second period.**

14. A pupil who does not begin the second period of training within six months of passing the first examination may be required by the Board to receive such further instruction, prior to beginning the second period, as the Board may prescribe.

### **Curricula for second period.**

15. The second period of training shall extend over not less than six consecutive calendar months in all cases and the pupil shall during such period attend such lectures, and perform such nursing and clinical and other work, as the Board shall require.

### **Notes to be kept during training.**

16. During the second period of training, the pupil shall keep detailed records in such form as the Board may from time to time prescribe of all work done and training received. Such records shall be signed by a teacher as the Board may require.

**Training interrupted by emergency.**

17. (1) If in either the first or second period a pupil's training is interrupted owing to her own illness or other grave emergency, the Board, on application made by the pupil through a teacher may, subject to such conditions as it thinks fit, allow the training taken prior to the interruption to be counted towards the prescribed period of training. Every application must be accompanied by a medical certificate, or other evidence satisfactory to the Board, according to the nature of the emergency.

(2) In case of interruption of training for reason other than illness of the pupil, grave emergency or the holidays permitted by the Board, the training received prior to such interruption shall not be so counted.

**CONDUCT OF EXAMINATION.**

**Time for examination.**

18. (1) A pupil shall present herself for the first examination within six months of the date on which she completes her first period of training and shall present herself for the second examination within six months of the date on which she completes her second period of training.

(2) A pupil who does not sit for examination in accordance with this rule may be required by the Board before presenting herself for examination to undergo such further training as the Board may prescribe.

**Qualification for examination.**

19. A pupil shall not be entitled to be admitted to an examination unless her name is on the roll and unless she produces certificates to the effect that she has undergone the training prescribed in these regulations. Such certificates shall be in the prescribed form and shall be signed by the lecturers and teachers, and countersigned by the Matron or Superintendent of Nurses of the approved training institution, unless such person is the teacher signing the certificates.

**Application for examination.**

20. A pupil who intends to present herself for either examination must send notice of such intention, and the sum of £1 in payment of the examination fee, to the secretary at least four weeks before the date fixed for the commencement of the examination. The certificates of training required by regulation 19 and in the case of the second examination the records kept by

the pupil in compliance with regulation 16 shall be sent to the secretary at the same time or at any subsequent date being not less than seven days before the date fixed for the commencement of the examination. Until such certificates and records have been received and accepted by the secretary a pupil shall not be deemed to have entered for the examination, but the fee shall not be returnable.

### **Cards of admission to examination.**

21. (1) The secretary shall send to each pupil accepted for the first examination, at the address furnished by her for the purpose, a card of admission to the written part of the examination, and shall personally or by deputy hand to each pupil attending the written part of the examination a card of admission to the oral part of the examination. The secretary shall send to each pupil accepted for the second examination at the address furnished by her for the purpose, a card of admission to that examination.

(2) Any pupil presenting herself at either part of the first examination, or at the second examination, without her card of admission will be liable to exclusion.

### **Cheating.**

22. A candidate detected copying from another candidate's paper or from a book or other document may be required to leave the examination room by the person in charge of the examination. Such candidate shall not be allowed to complete the examination and shall be liable to exclusion by the Board from all future examinations.

### **Failure and re-examination.**

23. A pupil who has failed at either examination of the Board and has not succeeded in passing the examination immediately following the one at which she has failed may be called to undergo such further training as the Board may require before again presenting herself for examination.

## ISSUE OF CERTIFICATES; ADMISSION TO REGISTER.

### **First certificate.**

24. The name of a candidate successful at the first examination shall be entered on the record maintained by the Board of all pupils who have passed that examination. A certificate, to be known as the first certificate, in the form set out in Schedule 1, shall be awarded to each candidate successful at the first examination whose first period of training has extended over six

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consecutive calendar months in accordance with the terms of regulation 12. The entry of a pupil's name on such record or the award of such first certificate shall not entitle a pupil to admission to the register or authorise her to hold herself out to be certified under the Act.

**Suspension of registration.**

25. (1) The Director may suspend a certificate of registration of a midwife for a period not exceeding two months if in his opinion she is liable to spread infection, or if to his knowledge she has contravened any directions approved by the Board for the use of disinfectants or for the employment of proper safeguards against the spread of infection.

(2) The Director shall forthwith inform the Midwives Board of the fact that he has suspended the certificate of registration of any midwife in pursuance of this rule and shall transmit for the information of the Board a statement of the reasons for such suspension.

(3) Any midwife whose certificate of registration is suspended by the Specialist in Community Medicine may appeal to the Board.

**CONDUCT AT AND AFTER CONFINEMENT.****Midwife's appliances.**

26. When called to a confinement a midwife shall take with her –

- (a) an appliance for giving vaginal injections, an appliance for giving enemata, a catheter, a pair of scissors, a clinical thermometer and a nail brush;
- (b) an efficient antiseptic for disinfecting the hands, etc.;
- (c) an antiseptic for douching in special cases;
- (d) an antiseptic lubricant for smearing the fingers, catheters, douche nozzles and enema nozzles before they touch the patient;
- (e) a small case, capable of sterilisation, which can contain sterile swabs, and other sterilisable articles.

**Case book.**

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27. (1) Every midwife shall keep a case book in the form set out in Schedule 2.

(2) It shall be the duty of the midwife to make all appropriate entries in the case book without delay, and any failure to make any entry or the wilful making of any incorrect entry shall be deemed an offence against these rules.

(3) A midwife shall preserve her case book and shall produce the same to the Administrator or the Board for inspection whenever called upon to do so.

### **Attendance on mother.**

28. If the midwife has charge of a lying-in case she shall not leave the patient after the commencement of the second stage, and shall stay with the woman until the expulsion of the afterbirth, and as long after as may be necessary. In cases where a doctor has been sent for on account of the labour being abnormal or of there being threatened danger, she shall await his arrival and faithfully carry out his instructions.

### **Removal of soiled linen etc.**

29. The midwife shall remove soiled linen, blood, faeces, urine and the placenta from the neighbourhood of the patient and from the lying-in room as soon as possible after the labour, and in every case before she leaves the patient's house.

### **Cleansing child's eyes; death of child.**

30. (1) As soon as a child's head is born, and if possible before the eyes are opened, its eyelids shall be cleansed.

(2) On the birth of a child which is in danger of death, the midwife shall if reasonably possible inform one of the parents of the child's condition.

(3) In the case of a child being born apparently dead, the midwife shall carry out such methods of resuscitation as have been taught her.

(4) The midwife shall, without delay, call in the aid of a registered medical practitioner for any inflammation of, or discharge from, the eyes, however slight, occurring in an infant delivered by her.

### **Cases of puerperal fever or other infections.**

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31. (1) A midwife or nurse in attendance on a patient suffering from puerperal fever or a foul-smelling vaginal discharge or any other illness supposed or suspected to be infectious, shall call in the aid of a registered medical practitioner and shall not visit or attend any other patient, but shall continue in attendance on the infected patient.

(2) Whenever a midwife or nurse is or has been in attendance on a patient suffering from puerperal fever, foul-smelling vaginal discharge or any other illness supposed or suspected to be infectious, the following rules as to disinfection shall in each instance be strictly complied with to the satisfaction of the Director –

- (a) All washable clothing shall be steeped in water (to which a little soda has been added) and then boiled. All gloves shall be boiled.
- (b) All other clothing shall be disinfected at the Government Disinfecting Station. The disinfection will be carried out free of cost on application to the Director.
- (c) The nurse's bag, and all other instruments and nail-brush shall be brought to the Public Health Department for disinfection. This shall be carried out free of cost by the Director.
- (d) A complete bath shall be taken by the midwife or nurse, soap being freely used. The hair shall be carefully washed, the nails of the hands cut short and the hands scrubbed and afterwards immersed for five minutes in a suitable disinfectant solution, which shall be provided free of cost on application to the Director.

(3) When the above rules have been strictly complied with a certificate shall be given on personal application to the Director. Without this certificate no midwife or nurse shall resume work.

**Notification of deaths and stillbirths.**

32. (1) In all cases in which death of the mother or of the child occurs before the arrival of a registered medical practitioner the midwife shall, as soon as possible after the death, notify the same to the Specialist in Community Medicine.

(2) In all cases where a registered medical practitioner is not in attendance the midwife shall, as soon as possible after the occurrence of a stillbirth, notify the same to the Specialist in Community Medicine.

### **Penalty.**

33. Any person who wilfully or negligently contravenes any of the provisions of regulations 26 to 32 inclusive is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of £25.

### DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.

#### **Preliminary investigation of complaint by Board.**

34. When information is furnished to the Board that any registered midwife is alleged to have been guilty of malpractice, negligence, misconduct or contravention of the Act, or any rule made thereunder regulating the practice of midwives, the Board shall cause such investigations to be made as may in its opinion be necessary in order that it may decide whether there is a prima facie case for an inquiry to be held by the Board.

#### **Notice to midwife when inquiry is to be held.**

35. If the Board is of opinion that there is a prima facie case for such inquiry in relation to any midwife, the secretary of the Board shall notify the midwife of the time when and the place where the inquiry is to be held, and shall supply to the midwife a concise statement of the matters alleged against her.

#### **Conduct of case against midwife.**

36. At the hearing of the inquiry before the Board the case against the midwife shall be conducted by the barrister or solicitor representing the complainant or, if there be no complainant or the complainant be not so represented, by a barrister or solicitor appointed for the purpose by the Board.

#### **Midwife may be represented.**

37. The midwife in respect of whom the inquiry is held may if she so desires be represented thereat by a barrister or solicitor.

#### **Member of Board not to conduct case.**

38. The case for or against a midwife at the inquiry shall not be conducted by a barrister or solicitor who is a member of the Board.

#### **Inquiry may be private or public.**

39. The inquiry shall be held in public or in private, or partly in public and partly in private, as the Board in its discretion may think fit:

Provided that the midwife may require the inquiry to be held in public.

**Order of proceedings.**

40. The order of procedure at the inquiry shall be as follows:—

- (i) the barrister or solicitor conducting the case against the midwife shall state that case and produce evidence in support thereof;
- (ii) the midwife or, if she is represented, the barrister or solicitor representing her, shall then state her case and produce her evidence in support thereof and thereafter may address the Board;
- (iii) the barrister or solicitor conducting the case against the midwife may then, if the midwife has produced evidence but not otherwise, address the Board;
- (iv) when the hearing is concluded the Board shall consider its decision and inform the midwife thereof.

**Evidence.**

41. (1) Evidence produced to the Board at an inquiry may be by oral statement or by written deposition or statement.

- (2) Each witness may be examined, cross-examined and re-examined.

**SCHEDULE 1.**

FORM OF FIRST CERTIFICATE.

Regulation 24.

NURSES AND MIDWIVES REGISTRATION BOARD.

Date

We hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has completed the first period of training prescribed for pupil-midwives and has passed the First Examination of the Nurses and Midwives Registration Board.

Chairman.

Secretary.

NOTICE.

This Certificate does not entitle the pupil whose name is inscribed hereon to admission to the Register of Nurses and Midwives or authorise her to hold herself out as registered under the Medical and Health Act.

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## Medical and Health

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#### SCHEDULE 2.

#### FORM OF CASE BOOK.

Regulation 27.

Number of case:  
Date of engagement to attend:  
Name and address:  
Number of previous labours and miscarriages:  
Age:  
Date and hour of midwife's arrival:  
Presentation:  
Duration of 1st, 2nd and 3rd stages of labour:  
Complications (if any) during or after labour:  
Sex of infant:                      Born living or dead:  
Full time or premature:      Number of months:  
If and when doctor called:      Name of doctor:  
Date of midwife's visit:  
Condition of mother then:  
Condition of child then:  
Remarks: \*

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\* If any drugs have been administered state here their nature and dose, and the time and purpose of their administration.