



Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979

1979 CHAPTER 36

Miscellaneous provisions about midwifery

16 Local supervision of midwifery practice

- (1) The following bodies shall be local supervising authorities for midwives—
 - (a) in England, Regional Health Authorities ;
 - (b) in Wales, Area Health Authorities ;
 - (c) in Scotland, Health Boards ; and
 - (d) in Northern Ireland, Health and Social Services Boards.
- (2) Each local supervising authority shall—
 - (a) exercise general supervision, in accordance with rules under section 15, over all midwives practising within its area;
 - (b) report any prima facie case of misconduct on the part of a midwife which arises in its area to the National Board for the part of the United Kingdom in which the authority acts;
 - (c) have power in accordance with the Council's rules to suspend a midwife from practice.
- (3) The Council may by rules prescribe the qualifications of persons who may be appointed by a local supervising authority to exercise supervision over midwives within its area, and no person shall be so appointed who is not qualified in accordance with the rules.
- (4) The National Boards are responsible for providing the authorities with advice and guidance in respect of the exercise of their functions under this section.