

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BRIEF

### Midwives Registration Ordinance (Chapter 162)

## MIDWIVES (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2001

### INTRODUCTION

On 4 June 2001, the Midwives Council of Hong Kong (the Council), in exercise of the power under section 23(3) of the Midwives Registration Ordinance (Cap. 162) and with the approval of the Secretary for Health and Welfare, made the Midwives (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) (Amendment) Regulation 2001 at **Annex**.

### BACKGROUND AND ARGUMENT

2. Training of midwives in Hong Kong is provided for in the Midwives (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation. No course of training in midwifery shall be recognised by the Council unless it is carried out in an establishment declared by the Council as a training school for midwives. The Regulation also specifies the duration and syllabus of courses of training in midwifery.

3. Regulation 10(3) provides that a student midwife who is a registered nurse is required to undergo training for a continuous period of one year whereas other student midwives are required to undergo training of two years in order to qualify to practise in midwifery. The duration of the training courses are fixed, they cannot last longer than one year or two years, as the case may be. To meet the increasing demand for quality midwifery service, there are plans to provide enhanced midwifery training programs lasting up to 18 months to train registered nurses in midwifery. Amendment to regulation 10(3)(a) is required to allow the conduct of 18-month courses in addition to the existing one-year courses.

4. Moreover, the Council would like to take this opportunity to make similar amendment to regulation 10(3)(b) to allow the conduct of training

courses lasting longer than 2 years for student midwives who are not registered nurses. This will allow the organisation of enhanced training courses in midwifery in future.

5. On the content of training courses, regulation 10(2)(e) provides that, where the student midwife concerned is required to take a 2-year training course, a course of training in midwifery shall include elementary anatomy, physiology, elementary principles of general nursing and hygiene. The Midwives Council has recently reviewed this provision. On the grounds that the Council draws up training syllabuses which are updated from time to time taking into account relevant needs and that a training school must first obtain the approval of the Council in accordance with regulation 10(2)(a) before amending the syllabus, the Council considers that it is not necessary to specify the detailed course requirements in the regulation and, accordingly, proposes to repeal regulation 10(2)(e).

## **THE REGULATION**

6. The Midwives (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) (Amendment) Regulation 2001 revises the training period for student midwives and removes the detailed course requirements in respect of 2-year training course in midwifery. The amendments will take effect upon gazettal.

7. Section 1(a) of the amendment Regulation repeals regulation 10(2)(e) so as to remove the requirement to include courses in elementary anatomy, physiology, elementary principles of general nursing and hygiene in a 2-year training course.

8. Section 1(b) of the amendment Regulation amends regulation 10(3)(a) and regulation 10(3)(b) regarding the duration of training courses in midwifery. Under the revised arrangements, a student midwife who is a registered nurse shall undergo training in midwifery for a continuous period of no less than one year whereas other student midwives shall undergo training in midwifery for a continuous period of no less than 2 years.

## **LEGISLATIVE TIMETABLE**

9. The legislative timetable is as follows :-

Publication in the Gazette	8 June 2001
Tabling at the Legislative Council	13 June 2001

## **BASIC LAW IMPLICATIONS**

10. The Department of Justice advises that the amendment Regulation is consistent with the Basic Law.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

11. The Department of Justice advises that the amendment Regulation has no human rights implications.

## **BINDING EFFECT**

12. The amendment Regulation will not affect the current binding effect of the Midwives Registration Ordinance.

## **FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

13. There are no additional financial and staffing implications.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

14. Public consultation is not considered necessary as the amendment Regulation affects only student midwives. The Midwives Council has endorsed the amendment Regulation.

## **PUBLICITY**

15. The amendment Regulation will be published in the Gazette on 8 June 2001. The Midwives Council will inform the approved midwifery training schools of the amendments.

## **ENQUIRY**

16. For enquiries in relation to this amendment Regulation, please contact Miss Winsome AU, Assistant Secretary for Health and Welfare at 2973 8118.

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Health and Welfare Bureau  
6 June 2001

**MIDWIVES (REGISTRATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE)  
(AMENDMENT) REGULATION 2001**

(Made by the Midwives Council of Hong Kong under  
section 23(3) of the Midwives Registration  
Ordinance (Cap. 162) with the approval of  
the Secretary for Health and Welfare)

**1. Training of midwives**

Section 10 of the Midwives (Registration and Disciplinary procedure) Regulation  
(Cap. 162 sub. leg.) is amended -

- (a) in subsection (2) -
  - (i) in paragraph (c), by adding "and" at the end;
  - (ii) in paragraph (d), by repealing "; and" and substituting a full stop;
  - (iii) by repealing paragraph (e);
- (b) in subsection (3), in paragraph (a) and (b), by adding "not less than" after "period of".

Chairman,  
Midwives Council of Hong Kong

4 June 2001

### **Explanatory Note**

This Regulation amends the Midwives (Registration and Disciplinary Procedure) Regulation (Cap. 162 sub. leg.) to revise the training period for student midwives and to remove the requirement to include a course in elementary anatomy, physiology, elementary principles of general nursing and hygiene in a 2-year training course in midwifery.