



VELFERÐARRÁÐUNEYTIÐ

Ministry of Welfare

REGULATION **on the education, rights and obligations of midwives** **and criteria for granting of licences and specialist licences,** **No. 1089/2012.**

SECTION I **General provisions.**

Article 1 *Scope.*

This Regulation applies to midwives holding licences and specialist licences from the Medical Director of Health under Articles 2 and 5.

SECTION II **Licences.**

Article 2 *Professional title.*

The right to use the professional title of midwife and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those who have been granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 3

Criteria for granting of a licence.

A licence under Article 2 may be granted to those who have completed a BS degree in nursing from the Faculty of Nursing in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences or the University of Akureyri's School of Health Sciences and Candidata studies in midwifery from the Faculty of Nursing in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences.

A licence from a state within the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland may also be confirmed, or a licence granted on the basis of education from the aforementioned states. Recognition of professional qualifications and competence of a midwife who meets the criteria of Directive 2005/36/EC, on the recognition of professional qualifications, with subsequent amendments, is subject to Regulation on recognition of professional qualifications and competence of healthcare practitioners from other EEA states, No. 461/2011, or to Nordic Convention on a common Nordic labour market for certain health professionals and veterinarians, No. 36/1993 (*cf.* Amendment No. 6/2001).

A licence may also be granted to those who have completed a comparable qualification from an educational institution in a state outside the EEA or Switzerland, which is recognised as such by Icelandic health authorities, and by health authorities in the state where the education took place.

Other criteria for the issue of a licence are subject to Article 13.

Article 4

Opinions.

Before a licence is granted under Article 2 on the basis of education outside Iceland under the third paragraph of Article 3, the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the midwifery programme of the Faculty of Nursing in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria for qualifications under the first paragraph of Article 3, for granting of a licence.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.

SECTION III **Specialist licences in midwifery.**

Article 5

Specialist licences.

The right to use the title of specialist in a specialist clinical field of midwifery and to practise as such in Iceland is confined to those granted a licence by the Medical Director of Health.

Article 6

Criteria for specialist licences.

Specialist licences may be granted in specialist clinical fields of midwifery. This is subject to the criterion that the specialist training of the applicant is defined as being within the specialist field for which she applies for a specialist licence. The relevant specialist field shall have a solid theoretical basis, and an equivalent shall exist in a recognised international forum.

A specialist clinical field refers to a field which involves working with patients directly, as well as prevention and midwifery diagnosis and treatment.

In order to be entitled to receive a specialist licence under Article 5 a midwife shall fulfil the following standards:

1. she shall be licensed as a midwife in Iceland under Article 2; and
2. she shall have completed a master's or doctoral degree in midwifery from a recognised university, or hold an equivalent education; and
3. she shall have worked in midwifery after graduation under indent 2 for the equivalent of at least two years full-time in the field for which the application for a specialist licence is made. If she has worked less than full-time, the duration of employment shall be proportionately longer.

Up to twelve months full-time may be subtracted if the person has been employed in the relevant speciality alongside doctoral studies.

Further criteria for the granting of a specialist licence are subject to Article 13.

Article 7

Specialist fields.

Specialist licences may be granted in the following special fields of midwifery:

1. Sexual health and prevention.
2. Antenatal care and prenatal diagnosis.
3. Obstetrics.
4. Postnatal care and breastfeeding.

A specific field on which the person has focussed within the clinical speciality may be specified.

Article 8

Application and opinions.

An application for a specialist licence in midwifery, together with documents confirming education and professional experience, and other necessary documents, shall be submitted to the Medical Director of Health.

Before a specialist licence is granted under Article 5 the Medical Director of Health shall elicit the opinion of the midwifery programme of the Faculty of Nursing in the University of Iceland's School of Health Sciences, with regard to whether the applicant fulfils the criteria of Article 6.

The Medical Director of Health may appoint a special committee to evaluate and comment upon applications for specialist licences.

The Medical Director of Health may elicit opinions from other bodies, as deemed necessary.