

# Prescribing medicine by midwives in SA Health facilities

Midwives who work in the public health maternity system and hold the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (NMBA) *Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives* are able to prescribe medications to birthing women.

SA Health aims to improve the efficiency of services for women and their families by enabling midwives to prescribe medications. This will support women and their babies to receive the treatment they need in a timelier manner and in alignment with the SA Health mission of delivering 'a *comprehensive and sustainable health system... for all South Australians.*'

### How are midwives able to prescribe?

In 2010 provisions were made under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) to enable registered midwives who have been endorsed by the NMBA to prescribe scheduled medicines. Previously, the use of this endorsement in South Australia has been restricted to midwives working exclusively in private practice; however, SA Health has enabled midwives who hold the endorsement to be credentialed to prescribe medications in South Australian public hospitals.

In order to be endorsed to prescribe scheduled medicines, midwives must:

- > have a minimum of three years post-registration experience;
- > undertake further study related to prescribing; and
- > meet and maintain the requirements of the NMBA's Registration Standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for midwives

Additional information related to prescribing can be found on the [NMBA website](#).

Midwives are enabled to prescribe in South Australia in accordance with the following legislation:

- > The [Health Practitioner Regulation National Law \(South Australia\) Act 2010](#)
- > The [South Australia Controlled Substances Act 1984](#)

## What can midwives prescribe?

In South Australia, a midwife with the NMBA endorsement is able to prescribe medicines that are in line with the midwifery profession's practice. Examples of this may include:

- > Oral, subcutaneous or intramuscular pain relief for labour, such as paracetamol with codeine, or fentanyl;
- > Antibiotics to treat simple infections, such as urinary tract infections or mastitis;
- > Postnatal contraception, such as the oral contraceptive pill, or Implanon; and/or
- > Immunisations for both mother and baby such as the seasonal influenza vaccination for mother or Hepatitis B vaccination for baby.

## How will I know if the midwife caring for me has the ability to prescribe?

Your midwife will inform you in person if they hold the NMBA endorsement to prescribe and if they have been credentialed to prescribe in the hospital in which they are working.

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## For more information

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