

Midwives

19 Midwives are defined through appearance on part 10 of the register. As at 31 March 1998 there were almost 94,000 registered midwives (of whom 33,000 were practising). Midwifery has always been a separate profession. Midwives' work is focused on care for women and babies in pregnancy, labour and the post-natal period.

20 The UKCC sets standards for entry to the register and through its Post-Registration Education and Practice [PREP] requirements sets standards for continuing professional development. The UKCC is currently considering how it can audit its PREP requirements. Details of PREP are enclosed.

5 The nature, extent and purpose of any regulatory or disciplinary powers over members. This should include an account of how the exercise of such functions may be, and in practice is, initiated.

21 One of our most important tasks is to consider allegations of professional misconduct or unfitness to practise for reasons of ill health made against registered nurses, midwives and health visitors.

22 Anyone has the right to make a complaint to the UKCC about a registered nurse, midwife or health visitor. There is no time limit for a complaint.