

Collaborative Arrangements

What is a collaborative arrangement?

A collaborative arrangement is an arrangement between an eligible midwife/eligible nurse practitioner with a medical practitioner that must provide for:

- consultation with a specified medical practitioner;
 - referral of a patient to a specified medical practitioner; and
 - transfer of the patient's care to a specified medical practitioner,
- as clinically relevant, to ensure safe, high quality health care.

How can I demonstrate a collaborative arrangement?

Collaborative arrangement can be demonstrated by:

- (a) being employed or engaged by a medical practitioner or an entity that provides medical services; **OR**
- (b) receiving patients on written referral from a medical practitioner; **OR**
- (c) a signed written agreement with a specified medical practitioner/s; **OR**
- (d) an arrangement in the midwife's or nurse practitioner's written records.

Who can I have a collaborative arrangement with?

A collaborative arrangement for a participating midwife can be with the following specified medical practitioners:

- An obstetrician;
- A medical practitioner who provides obstetric services; or
- A medical practitioner employed or engaged by a hospital authority and authorised by the hospital authority to participate in a collaborative arrangement.

A collaborative arrangement for a participating nurse practitioner can be with all kinds of medical practitioners.

Where can I find more information about collaborative arrangements?

The legislation regarding collaborative arrangements includes:

- The *National Health (Collaborative arrangements for midwives) Determination 2010*,
- The *National Health (Collaborative arrangements for nurse practitioners) Determination 2010*, and
- The *Health Insurance Amendment Regulations 2010 (No. 1)*.

These documents can be found on the Commonwealth of Australia Law website at: <http://www.frli.gov.au/comlaw/comlaw.nsf/sh/homepage>.

Further information on the Medicare items in support of midwife and nurse practitioner services is available from Medicare Australia on 132 150 (for providers) or 132 011 (for patients); by emailing mbsonline@health.gov.au; or by telephoning the DoHA helpline on 1300672507 or www.health.gov.au/midwives-nurse-practitioners