The Constitution of the Chamber of Midwives

Pursuant to Article 28 of the Midwifery Act (Official Gazette, No. 120/08) the Incorporating Assembly of the Croatian Chamber of Midwives, with the approval of the Minister of Health and Social Affairs, passed the following Constitution at the meeting held on 2nd March 2009

THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE CROATIAN CHAMBER OF MIDWIVES

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Article I

The Croatian Chamber of Midwives (hereinafter: the Chamber) is an autonomous, independent, vocational, legally founded organization of midwives in the Republic of Croatia. The purposes of the Chamber are to protect the midwives’ rights, represent their interests, advance midwifery practices, safeguard the respectability of midwives and supervise the proper performance of midwifery duties.

Article II

The name of the Chamber is HRVATSKA KOMORA PRIMALJA. The name of the Chamber in English is the CROATIAN CHAMBER OF MIDWIVES. The acronym used for the Chamber is HKP. The Chamber Headquarters is located in Zagreb, Kutnjački put 2a, Croatia.

Article III

The Chamber has the status of a legal entity. In legal dealings with third parties, the Chamber shall act autonomously and for an unlimited period, in its own right. In property dealings with third parties, the Chamber shall be held liable for its obligations by all its assets. The Croatian Chamber of Midwives is represented by its President.

Article IV

The seal of the Chamber is round, 30 mm in diameter, with the words HRVATSKA KOMORA PRIMALJA displayed on the rim, and the Chamber’s sign in the middle. The Chamber publishes its own newsletter which bears the graphical sign of the Chamber.

On the basis of consent given by the Croatian Ministry of Administration, the Chamber uses a seal with the coat of arms of Croatian, in-laws and public documents issued in the framework of its public powers.

The decision on the form and content of the graphical sign shall be made by the Chamber Council.

Article V

All midwives practicing on the territory of the Republic of Croatia are obliged to register with the Chamber. The registration is obligatory for all individuals who have acquired a diploma from the
School of Midwifery, a certificate as midwifery assistants, or a midwifery college degree. All individuals with high-school midwifery qualifications, who have had additional education in health care, and who perform any work connected to midwifery, are also obliged to register with the Chamber.

The midwifery activities from paragraph 1 of this article include all procedures, knowledge and skills of midwifery care. In her vocation, the midwife is obliged to apply the highest professional skills, respecting the principle of patient’s rights, i.e. the ethical and professional principles which promote health both with people in general, and with individual patients.

The midwife is obliged to hold in confidence all client information and his or her health records.

**Article VI**

The Chamber is authorized to perform the following public activities:
1. to keep the Midwife Register of the Republic of Croatia and other public registers,
2. to issue, renew and withdraw Licenses for independent practice, within the scope of which it regulates the contents, conditions and procedures for assessment of competence of those midwives who wish to renew their independent practice license,
3. performs professional supervision of practicing midwives,
4. performs other duties for which it is publicly authorized in accordance with the Law.

**Article VII**

A midwife is obliged to notify the Chamber of all the information connected to his or her practice, further education and professional training, or the change in the same. The Chamber protects the right to privacy of its members pursuant to the positive bylaws of the Republic of Croatia.

**Article VIII**

The Chamber keeps the following registers:
1. The Register of Midwives,
2. The Register of Bachelors of Midwifery,
3. The Register of Midwifery Assistants.

The Register of Midwives from paragraph 1 of this article is in the public domain. Excerpts from these papers and certificates issued on the strength of information from these papers, are considered public documents. The process of registration with the Chamber and the layout of membership cards shall be regulated by the Bylaw for Registration.

**Article IX**

The Register of Midwives, the Register of Bachelors of Midwifery and the Register of Midwifery Assistants, requires the minimum of following information:
1. name and surname of the midwife,
2. personal identification number (with permission) and tax identification number of the midwife,
3. date and place of birth,
4. certificates and/or diplomas for education complete and professional examination passed,
5. the date of first entry into the Register,
6. serial number and date of registration,
7. the date of and the reason for the member’s registration being canceled or not renewed, along with the number and date of the document which cancels the registration,
8. current proceedings for professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity,
9. positions held in the Chamber’s bodies and their terms.

Article X

In addition to public authorization from Article Six of this Constitution, the Chamber also performs the following functions:
1. passes the Code of Ethics for midwives,
2. cooperates with the Ministry of Health and Social Care in all fields of interest for midwives, and gives professional opinion on bills and bylaws which effect the midwifery vocation,
3. passes the contents of protocols for planning and enforcement of midwifery practice,
4. proposes the standards and norms for midwifery practice to the Minister of Health and Social Affairs,
5. determines the need for, the contents of and the duration of programs for additional training and education of midwives,
6. passes general acts which regulate contents, deadlines and procedures for permanent professional education and training, and verification of midwifery expertise,
7. proposes the contents of the midwifery list to the Minister of Health and Social Care,
8. regulates the ways and means of professional supervision of practicing midwives,
9. determines the lowest prices of midwifery practices outside the domain of public health organizations,
10. determines prices of midwifery practices in the domain of voluntary health insurance,
11. executes professional supervision of practicing midwives,
12. determines the scope of professional misconduct for midwives,
13. determines disciplinary measures in cases of both light and grave professional misconduct,
14. conducts disciplinary proceedings and pronounces disciplinary measures in cases of professional misconduct,
15. cooperates with health inspection of the Ministry of Health and Social Care,
16. defends midwives’ interests,
17. provides legal aid to its members,
18. facilitates other needs of its members,
19. coordinates relations between its members and actively participates in solving conflicts which may arise,
20. cooperates with the World Health Organization and other international organizations which are of interest to midwifery,
21. performs other jobs determined by the Law, this Constitution and other Acts passed by the Chamber.

Article XI

The members of the Chamber have the following rights:
1. to elect the bodies of the Chamber and be elected to them,
2. to receive advisory and legal aid, as it pertains to their profession,
3. to receive professional medical advice in the field of midwifery,
4. to ruse organized liability insurance in cases of claims for damages incurred while receiving midwifery services,
5. to use all privileges which the Chamber arranges with other legal and natural persons,
6. to seek employment and to be notified of any inquiries after midwives,
7. to participate in professional consultations organized by the Chamber,
8. to receive a copy of the newsletter published by the Chamber,
9. other rights pursuant to this Constitution and other Acts passed by the Chamber.

**Article XII**

The members of the Chamber have the following duties:
1. to respect and abide by all the regulations passed by the bodies of the Chamber,
2. to respect all bodies of the Chamber,
3. to regularly notify the Chamber of all the information and the changes therein which are required by the bylaw regulating the issue, renewal and withdrawal of Licenses for independent practice, and other Acts of the Chamber,
4. to duly respond to all and any inquiries put by the Chamber,
5. to cooperate with proceedings of professional supervision, in line with the separate Act of the Chamber,
6. to regularly pay the membership dues.

**THE CHAMBER STRUCTURE**

**Article XIII**

The bodies of the Chamber are the following:
1. the Chamber Assembly,
2. the Chamber Council,
3. the Professional Council of the Chamber,
4. the President of the Chamber,
5. two Vice Presidents of the Chamber,
6. Regional Councils,
7. the Supervisory Board of the Chamber,
8. the Chamber Court,
9. Commissions:
   - Ethical Commission,
   - the Commission for Vocational Issues and Permanent Education, and
   - the Commission for Professional Supervision and Quality Control.

The term for the elected bodies of the Chambers is five years, or until the election of new bodies. The same members may be re-elected to the same bodies.

**Article XIV**

The bodies of the Chamber act independently in performing duties from their purview. The manner of electing members to bodies of the Chamber is further regulated by the Bylaw on Electing the Bodies of the Chamber.

**1. THE ASSEMBLY**

**Article XV**

The Assembly is the highest body of the Chamber. The members of the Assembly are:
1. Presidents from all Regional Councils of the Chamber,
2. representatives of all Regional Councils of the Chamber.

The number of representatives of Regional Councils from the previous paragraph is determined so that each Regional Council shall elect one representative for the Assembly to every 75 members.
Article XVI

The duties of the Assembly are to:
1. pass the Chamber Constitution,
2. appoint and dismiss the President of the Chamber,
3. appoint and dismiss the members of the Chamber Council,
4. pass the Rules of Assembly Procedures,
5. prepare the capital budget and the balance sheet of the Chamber,
6. elect and release the members of the Supervisory Board,
7. pass decisions on the reports of all bodies of the Chamber,
8. pass decisions on the appeals to the decisions made by the Chamber Council,
9. make strategic decisions of importance for the Chamber.

Article XVII

The notice of all regular and special sessions of the Assembly are given by the President of the Chamber.
The regular session of the Assembly are held at least once a year.
The request for a special session of the Assembly may be submitted to the President of the Chamber
by the Chamber Council, by at least three Regional Councils, or by one third of the members of the Chamber. Along with the request for a special meeting, its proposed agenda should also be submitted.
The President must convene the special session of the Assembly within thirty (30) days of receiving
the request from paragraph 3 of this Article. In case of his or her inability to personally convene the
session, the Assembly shall be convened by one of the Chamber’s Vice Presidents. If none of the Vice
Presidents convenes the session during the following fifteen (15) days, the promoters may convene
the special session of the Assembly themselves.

Article XVIII

The notice of the special session of the Assembly must be dispatched to all members of the same, at
least thirty (30) days before it is held. The summon is published in the Chamber’s newsletter and/or
on its official web site.
The notice of the special session must state the time and place of the meeting, as well as its agenda.

Article XIX

The Rules of Assembly Procedures lay out detailed regulations on the operation of the Assembly,
and especially as it pertains to matters of convening a session of the Assembly, debating, passing
decisions and voting on bills, electing the Chamber’s President and other bodies, reports of the
Chamber’s bodies etc.

2. THE CHAMBER COUNCIL

Article XX

The Chamber Council has seven (7) members. The Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson are elected
by the members among themselves.
The President and the Secretary of the Chamber participate in the work of the Council without the
right of making decisions.
Article XXI

The sessions of the Chamber Council are convened and conducted by the Chairperson. The Chamber Council passes decisions by the majority vote from the total number of the Council members, unless this Constitution or other general Acts of the Chamber prescribe a different qualified majority.

Article XXII

The Council shall:
1. pass general Acts of the Chamber for which it is authorized by the Law and this Constitution,
2. elect the President and two members of the Chamber Court,
3. appoint and dismiss the chief editor of the Chamber's newsletter,
4. appoint and dismiss the chief webmaster of the Chamber's official web site,
5. elect and dismiss the two Vice-Presidents of the Chamber,
6. elect and dismiss the Chamber's Treasurer,
7. elect and dismiss the Chamber's Secretary,
8. appoint and dismiss the members of fixed Commissions,
9. determine the exact amount of the membership dues and other membership fees,
10. run the financial dealings of the Chamber,
11. implement decisions and conclusions of the Assembly,
12. pass decision on the appeals against the President's and/or Vice-Presidents' decisions unless the Law, this Constitution or a general Act of the Chamber state otherwise,
13. give judgment on appeals against the decisions of a Commission,
14. give judgment on appeals against the decisions of the Chamber Court,
15. pass decisions of the Chamber's membership in international associations and other organizations, and elect the Chamber's representatives in the same,
16. promote cooperation with other chambers in the health care sector in the Republic of Croatia, and with adequate vocational and professional associations in Croatia; promote cooperation between the Chamber and relevant ministries, the Croatian Institute for Health Insurance, medical schools, colleges and polytechnics,
17. perform jobs of general significance to midwifery,
18. pass the decision on calling votes for the members of the elective bodies of the Chamber,
19. pass regulations on Regional Councils,
20. pass the Code of Ethics for Midwives,
21. pass the Bylaw on Professional Supervision,
22. pass the Bylaw on Disciplinary Proceedings,
23. pass the Bylaw on Electing the Chamber's Bodies,
24. compile and pass the proposition of the Bylaw on Registration,
25. pass other bylaws and rules of conduct prescribed by the Law and this Constitution,
26. pass programs and schemes for operating of the Chamber's bodies,
27. decide on applications for registration by midwives, Bachelors of Midwifery and midwifery assistants,
28. implement sanctions for both light and grave professional misconduct,
29. prepare the list of expenses for the Chamber's services,
30. determine the lowest prices of midwifery practices outside the domain of the public health organizations,
31. determine prices of midwifery practices in the domain of voluntary health insurance,
32. organizes the publishing of the Chamber's newsletter,
33. do other jobs prescribed by the Law, this Constitution or other general Acts of the Chamber,
34. do all the jobs which are outside the scope of other bodies of the Chamber, or those submitted to them by the Assembly.

**Article XXIII**

The Council meets at the notice of the Council's Chairperson at least six (6) times a year for regular sessions. The work of the Chamber Council is further regulated by the Rules for the Chamber Council which especially deal with the matters of convening the sessions, debating and voting.

**3. THE PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHAMBER**

**Article XXIV**

The Professional Council of the Chamber is an advisory body to the President of the Chamber (hereinafter: the President). The Professional Council has five (5) members. The members of the Professional Council are appointed by the President. The President shall, generally, appoint to the Professional Council prominent experts for particular fields in the midwifery occupation. The President and the members of the Chamber Council cannot be the Chairpersons or the members of the Professional Council. The President attends sessions of the Professional Council without vote.

**Article XXV**

The obligations of the Professional Council are to:
- discuss about and make decisions on the issues regarding the practice of midwives, Bachelors of Midwifery, and midwifery assistants,
- propose professional solutions from the practice of the same,
- propose professional grounds for the development of the practice of the same,
- propose measures for advancing the quality of the practice of the same,
- dispatch opinions and propositions regarding the organization of work and conditions for development the practice of the same,
- propose means and forms of permanent education of the same,
- propose forms of professional supervision for the same,
- perform other duties regulated by general Acts of the Chamber, or as requested of them by the President

**Article XXVI**

The Professional Council passes decisions by a majority of votes from the total number of members in the same, unless this Constitution or other general Acts of the Chamber prescribe a different qualified majority.

**Article XXVII**

The operations of the Professional Council are further regulated by the Rules for the Professional Council.
4. THE CHAMBER COMMISSIONS

Article XXVIII

The Chamber Commissions are:
1. Ethical Commission,
2. Commission for vocational issues and permanent education, and
3. Commission for professional supervision and quality control.

Fixed Commissions from the previous paragraph of this Article are made up of three (3) members, who elect the Chairperson among themselves.

Organization of work within fixed commissions shall be further regulated by the Bylaw on Commissions.

The Council may appoint other commissions and/or work-groups for certain issues as the need arises, pursuant to the Acts of the Chamber.

Article XXIX

Ethical Commission

The duties of the Ethical Commission are to:
1. draft the Code of Ethics for Midwives,
2. monitor and supervise the implementation of the rules of ethics in midwifery practice, and take appropriate measures in cases of their violation,
3. coordinate its work with the other bodies of the Chamber,
4. consider proposals and issues at the request of Regional Councils,
5. in cases of reasonable doubt of the violation of the Code of Ethics for Midwives, propose disciplinary proceedings before the Chamber Court to the President of the Chamber,
6. perform other duties regulated by this Constitution or general Acts of the Chamber.

Article XXX

Commission for vocational issues and permanent education

The duties of the Commission for vocational issues and permanent education are to:
1. give professional opinions on bills and bylaws which effect the midwifery vocation,
2. propose the contents of protocols for planning and enforcement of midwifery practice
3. determine the need for, and propose the contents and the length of the programs for additional and permanent education of midwives, and to organize the same,
4. draft the contents of the midwifery list,
5. consider proposals and issues at the request of Regional Councils,
6. coordinate its work with the other bodies of the Chamber,
7. perform other duties regulated by this Constitution or general Acts of the Chamber.

Article XXXI

Commission for professional supervision and quality control

The duties of the Commission for professional supervision and quality control are to:
1. draft the contents of the list of midwives who shall perform professional supervision and quality control,
2. establish professional criteria by which professional supervision and quality control shall be conducted,
3. create the annual plan of professional supervision and quality control,
4. organize care for and supervision of the scope and quality of the midwives’ professional practices,
4. keep records of the professional supervision which was conducted and the measures which were proposed,
6. compile an annual report on professional supervision and quality control,
7. draft the Bylaw on Professional Supervision,
8. coordinate the implementation of professional supervision and quality control together with the health inspection of the relevant ministry,
9. propose disciplinary proceedings before the Chamber Court to the President of the Chamber, in cases of reasonable doubt of misconduct in a midwife’s practices,
10. coordinate its work with the other bodies of the Chamber,
11. perform other duties regulated by this Constitution or general Acts of the Chamber.

5. THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER

Article XXXII

The President and the two Vice-Presidents of the Chamber may perform their work under the employment contract, whether full- or part-time, or be recompensed through another type of contract.

Article XXXIII

The duties of the President of the Chamber are to:
1. summon and preside the Assembly,
2. represent the Chamber,
3. sign contracts made by the Chamber,
4. submit requests for conducting disciplinary proceedings to the Chamber Court,
5. propose candidates for the members of the Chamber Court to the Council,
6. propose before the Council and the Assembly the undertaking of actions which are concordant with the Chamber politics,
7. provide news releases or empower for the same a member of the Chamber, or a third party;
8. run the Chamber Office,
9. perform other duties regulated by this Constitution or general Acts of the Chamber, and those entrusted to him or her by the Assembly.

Article XXXIV

The President of the Chamber (hereinafter: the President) represents the Chamber.
The President may arrange deals up to individual worth of 70,000.00 kunas. Jobs worth over this amount the President may arrange only upon the decision of the Chamber Council.
The President is responsible for his or her work to the Assembly.
The President is obliged to give reports on his or her work to the Assembly at every session.
The President may, with the approval of the Professional Council, suspend any member of the Chamber bodies, until the first session of the Council or the Assembly, in case one does not perform one’s duties, or disrupts the proper functioning of the Chamber, or in cases where there are other obstacles for one’s participation in the work of the Chamber.
The President may be suspended or relieved of his or her duties before the end of the term pursuant to the regulations from the Bylaw on Electing the Chamber’s Bodies.
The Vice-Presidents of the Chamber acts in stead of the President when he or she is absent or prevented from attending, and perform other jobs entrusted to them by the President.
In case the President becomes unfit to hold his or her function to the end of the term, the Vice-Presidents shall act in his or her stead until the election and a new appointment of the Chamber, but no longer than ninety (90) days.

Article XXXV

The President and the Vice-Presidents of the Chamber are elected upon the public announcement of vacancies in the Chamber’s newsletter and/or on its official web site. The President is elected for the first term by the Incorporating Assembly on the basis of the proposition made by the Incorporating Board. Any person who fulfills the following requirements may be appointed as the President:
- holds a Bachelor of Midwifery or Nursing degree, after having completed the high-school for midwives,
- has passed the professional exam,
- has at least ten (10) years of work experience in midwifery,
- is a citizen and resident of the Republic of Croatia,
- is proficient in at least one world language,
- actively uses Microsoft Word, Excel and the internet
- presents evidence that no legal proceedings are taken against the candidate and that he or she has not been convicted of any crimes
Those candidates who were actively engaged in promoting the midwifery practice prior to the election shall have advantage over others.
Along with his or her request, the candidate shall also submit a plan and program for the functioning of the Chamber during the term for which he or she runs.

6. THE SUPERVISORY BOARD

Article XXXVI

The Supervisory Board shall have three (3) members, who elect the Chairperson among themselves. The Supervisory Board is obliged to review the financial operations and the balance sheet of the Chamber at least biannually. It files its reports with the Assembly each year.
The Chamber Council, the President, Vice-Presidents and the Secretary of the Chamber, as well as other bodies of the Chamber, are obliged to provide the Supervisory Board with the required information which pertains to their work.

7. THE CHAMBER COURT

Article XXXVII

In cases of violation of professional duties, the midwives, the Bachelors of Midwifery and midwifery assistants shall be responsible to the Chamber Court, which has three (3) members. The Chamber Court shall draft the Bylaw on Disciplinary Proceedings. The appeals against the decisions of the Chamber Council shall be filed with the Council. The work of the Chamber Court, liabilities and disciplinary actions, and all proceedings in the Chamber Court shall be regulated by the Rules for the Chamber Court.
8. REGIONAL COUNCILS

Article XXXVIII

Midwives, Bachelors of Midwifery and midwifery assistants who were registered with the Chamber have thereby become the members of the Regional Councils in the district of their respective workplaces.
All Counties and the Zagreb District shall have one Regional Council.
Regional Councils in the Counties have their headquarters in the county center, and the Regional Council of the Zagreb District in the city of Zagreb.
Regional Councils may pass their own regulations, which come into effect after they are approved by the Chamber Council.
Regional Councils are responsible for implementation of conclusions and decisions of the Chamber’s bodies in their district.
The work of Regional Councils is further regulated by the Bylaw on Regional Councils.
The Chamber’s Office

Article XXXIX

The Chamber’s Office is a part of the Chamber which keeps track of administrative jobs.
The job in the Chamber's Office is organized by and managed by the President.
The organizational and administrative structure of the Office shall be further regulated by the Bylaw on the Chamber’s Office.
The Secretary of the Chamber

Article XL

The Secretary of the Chamber (hereinafter: the Secretary) is elected by the Chamber Council.
The Secretary is elected by the Chamber Council on the basis of applications following the public announcement of vacancies published on the official web site.
The Secretary performs professional work determined by this Constitution and other general Acts of the Chamber. In cooperation with the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Chamber, he or she implements conclusions and decisions of the Assembly, the Council, the President and Vice-Presidents, and other bodies of the Chamber.
The Secretary manages the work of professional services and coordinates them.
The Secretary does all professional work connected to registration with the Chamber, and issuing, renewing or withdrawing the Licenses for independent practice.
The Secretary records the minutes at all sessions of the Assembly and the Chamber Council.
Job description and requirements for the Secretary shall be regulated by the Bylaw on the Structure and Operation of the Chamber.
Treasurer

Article XLI

The duties of the Treasurer of the Chamber are to:
1. propose and draft the annual plan and program of financial and material operations of the Chamber, to produce final accounts of the Chamber, and to submit them for approval before the Assembly and the Chamber Council,
2. participate in the making of regulations pertaining to the Chamber’s financing,
3. participate in the drawing of periodic and annual financial reports,
4. participate in the creating of the list of expenses for the Chamber’s services, 
5. coordinate the financial matters of Regional Councils, 
6. cooperate with the other bodies of the Chamber as pertains to financial issues, 
7. perform all other duties assigned to him or her by the President of the Chamber, or another body of the Chamber.

The Treasurer of the Chamber is elected by the Chamber Council on the basis of applications following the public announcement of vacancies published on the official web site.

Financial management

Article XLII

The financial management of the Chamber takes place on the basis of annual revenues and expenditures, which is authorized by the Assembly.

The Chamber is financed through:
1. registration fees, 
2. membership dues, 
3. other incomes acquired through the Chamber’s activities, 
4. the State Budget, 
5. donations, and 
6. other sources.

Transparency of the Chamber

Article XLIII

The Chamber notifies the public of its work through the official web site and/or its newsletter. If need arises, it also uses other means of public communication.

License for independent practice

Article XLIV

Midwives, Bachelors of Midwifery and midwifery assistants may offer midwifery care only if they procure a License for independent practice.

The procedures of issuing, renewing and withdrawing the License for independent practice shall be regulated by a separate bylaw.

The protection of the member’s rights

Article XLV

All decisions and resolutions on acquiring the rights, obligations and responsibilities of a member must be delivered to the member in the written form, with instructions of legal remedy.

Article XLVI

In cases where a member of the Chamber considers that a decision made by the Chamber’s bodies and/or its fixed commissions has violated one’s rights, one has the right to appeal to the competent body of the Chamber within fifteen (15) days from the day of being provided with the decision or the resolution for which one considers to be in violation one’s rights, unless this Constitution or another general Act of the Chamber prescribe otherwise.
Article XLVII

The body of the Chamber shall decide on the appeal at the first session following the date of its receipt.

The member has the right to attend the session of the Chamber’s body at which one’s appeal is being considered, and present all facts relevant to the passing of the decision, unless this Constitution or other general Acts of the Chamber prescribe a different course of action.

An administrative action may be taken against the final decision of the Chamber.

Transitional and final provisions

Article XLVIII

Amendments to this Constitution shall be made according to the procedure for adoption of the Constitution.

Article XLIX

The regulations from this Constitution are approved by the Minister of Health and Social Affairs.

This Constitution shall enter into force on the day of being approved by the Minister of Health and Social Affairs.

This Constitution shall be published on the Chamber’s official web site, the web site of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, and the web site of the Croatian Association of Midwives.

Barbara Finderle
President of the Croatian Chamber of Midwives