



PE1454/G

**The Royal College of Midwives
37 Fredrick Street Edinburgh EH2 1EP**

The Royal College of Midwives Scotland response to the Public Petitions Committee PE 1454 - Hyperemesis

The Royal College of Midwives Scotland (RCM) represents the vast majority of midwives working in Scotland, who we have conferred with as part of our response to this consultation. We welcome the opportunity to participate in this consultation and we set out our comments in relation to the consultation questions below.

The Royal College of Midwives in submitting comment to the public petitions committee welcome the fact that this is being considered.

Hyperemesis is different from the usual morning sickness that pregnant women come to expect and can be quite debilitating in its nature and if not properly treated can have severe consequences for the woman experiencing it.

Therefore it is important that these women who are suffering from hyperemesis have the appropriate treatment. However the number of women at that level may not justify every Health Board having a specialist nurse in this area but it may be more appropriate to have a nurse or midwife who has a specialist interest in the condition and has appropriate training working closely with her medical and obstetric colleagues.

It may also be beneficial to consider a managed clinical network across Scotland for the condition which would include all of those who look after women with this condition including dieticians and nutritionists.

Early recognition and treatment may prevent hospital admission but NHS Scotland should consider a SIGN guideline on this condition as currently the National Institute for Clinical Excellence has nothing either.

Gillian Smith
Director, RCM Scotland
