



SCHOOL OF NURSING

UNIT OUTLINE

School/Division: SCHOOL OF NURSING

Unit Title: EVIDENCE BASED MIDWIFERY PRACTICE 2

Unit Code: NM 453

Level: **Advanced**

Prerequisites: NM441 Foundations of Midwifery Practice
NM451 Research Based Practice Development in Midwifery

Corequisite(s): Nil

Exclusion(s): Nil

Credit Points: 15

ASCED Code: 060303

Objectives:

On completion of this unit students will be able to:

- develop a plan of care designed to meet the individual woman's physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual needs and expectations in the context of a problematic or complex pregnancy, labour, or birth, thus providing woman centred midwifery care;
- demonstrate an understanding of the midwife's role and responsibility to protect the woman and her foetus/infant including informed consent to care and treatment;
- demonstrate the knowledge and skill required to provide safe and effective midwifery care throughout the processes of labour and birth, including receiving the infant;
- demonstrate an understanding of pathophysiologies associated with pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period;
- demonstrate the knowledge and skill to detect potential and actual complications during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period;
- demonstrate an understanding of indications for consultation with or referral to other appropriate health professionals;
- demonstrate an understanding of the different interventions used during labour and birth, including the rationale for use and effect of the intervention on the progress of labour and birth;
- demonstrate the knowledge and skill required to care for a woman undergoing intervention during labour and birth;
- demonstrate the knowledge and skill required to address emergencies in the absence of a medical practitioner including resuscitation of the newborn;



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- demonstrate the knowledge and skill needed to manage situations of neonatal death and the stillborn baby;
- demonstrate the knowledge and skill required to assess maternal well being and provide care to the woman during the postnatal phase in the context of risk and potential and actual problems;
- demonstrate the knowledge and skill required to assess and care for neonates in the special care nursery.

Content

(a) Theoretical component

An evidence based approach to:

- the midwife's legal and ethical responsibility to the woman during pregnancy, labour and birth with emphasis on actual and potential problems in the context of rural midwifery practice
- the principles of woman centred care focused on the individual woman's physical, psychological, social, cultural, spiritual needs, expectations and decision making in the context of complications and problems
- pathophysiologies of pregnancy including assessment of maternal and foetal well being in the context of existing maternal illness, eg. diabetes or hypertension
- pathophysiology of pregnancy including assessment of mother and fetus in the context of developing complexities and risk eg. premature labour, antepartum haemorrhage, placental insufficiency or RH isoimmunisation
- midwifery practice in labour and birth experience when problems are encountered
- assessment of maternal and foetal wellbeing and the progress of complicated labour
- guidelines for referral and consultation in the context of deviations from normal
- strategies to enhance the labour and birth experience
- principles of pharmacological management of labour pain in the context of prolonged or difficult labour
- principles of reception and assessment of the baby emphasising resuscitation, birth asphyxia and detection of respiratory distress syndrome
- interventions used during labour and birth including: induction and augmentation of labour; forceps; ventouse extraction; and caesarean section
- complicated labour and birth, eg. multiple pregnancy; preterm; cord presentation and prolapse; foetal distress; shoulder dystopia; postpartum haemorrhage; pregnancy-induced hypertension and eclampsia
- postnatal care of the woman who has experienced a complicated delivery with poor outcomes for example third degree tear, emergency caesarean section
- care of a woman experiencing postnatal morbidities including, urinary retention, or incontinence, vulval haematoma, post partum haemorrhage, mastitis, deep vein thrombosis, infection, perineal wound care and pain management, mental health issues, impaired mother and baby attachments
- Support of mother and infant in supporting establishment of breastfeeding
- Education about milk preparation and storage for women who are breastfeeding or bottle feeding
- Care of the neonate in special care nursery including prematurity, respiratory distress syndrome, hypoglycaemia, feeding difficulties, birth asphyxia, infection, congenital abnormalities or any other problems that impact upon neonatal well being and/or maternal attachment in the first few weeks of life



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b) Clinical education and practice

The major focus of student learning takes place in the clinical setting under the guidance and supervision of midwives who have agreed to take the role of preceptor. The aim is to develop a critical awareness of evidence based midwifery practice related to pregnancy, birth and postnatal care of both mother and baby. The preceptor/s assists the student to apply propositional knowledge and to develop the professional craft knowledge and skills required to work 'with woman' during her pregnancy and labour and in the post natal period to two weeks post birth. In this unit the clinical experience continues as outlined in Evidence Based Midwifery Practice 1, with the addition of working with women during high risk pregnancy, complicated birth and postnatal problems for either or both mother and baby.

The student is required to fulfill the following NBV **Minimal Practice Requirements** during the clinical education experience and these requirements will be met over the time of the two clinically focused units.

- "follow through" experience - the NBV requires graduates of the course to have undertaken a minimum of 10 follow through experiences, where the student forms a relationship with particular women, participating in their care from the initial contact in pregnancy to the weeks immediately after the woman has given birth. This encompasses the interface of the hospital and community as appropriate.
- a minimum of 50 pregnancy assessments*
- being with a minimum of 20 women giving birth as the primary care giver, throughout the labour and the immediate period following birth*;
- participate in a minimum of 50 mother and baby wellbeing assessments*;
- participate in the reception and resuscitation of the newborn*;
- participate in the care of infants in the special care nurseries.

**These may be incorporated into rather than being additional to the 10 follow through experiences.*

Learning tasks and assessment

Students are required to successfully complete the academic and clinical components of the unit. The two components are linked and require a minimum of a pass grade for the theoretical component and a minimum of a supervised level of competence in the clinical component.

Theoretical program Learning Task	Assessment	Percentage
Theoretical concepts of complicated and high risk pregnancy, foetal development, labour, birth and postnatal issues	Examination 2 hours	25%
Caring for the high risk woman and baby	Critical incident analysis 2,500 words	25%



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Clinical program Learning Task	Assessment	Percentage
Clinical practice 300hrs	Portfolio containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• evaluation of identified competencies• Reflective essay• Clinical case presentation	50%
NBV practice requirements	Clinical learning tools to support learning objectives Supervisor maintained record of completion	Ungraded pass