

Maternity Theatre

Midwifery students may also experience theatre practice as part of their Birthing Suite placement

Aim

The aim of this placement is to enable midwifery students to observe and participate in the care of women requiring obstetric surgery.

Competencies linked to this placement

As students spend a short time in theatre they are only required to reach **participation** level in terms of their **Clinical Competencies**. Depending on prior learning and experiences some students may achieve a higher level of competency. **Skills** acquired can be documented by the student and signed by a midwife, preferably the student's preceptor, in the Competency Assessment Booklet.

4th Year and Higher Diploma students should actively contribute to midwifery practice as a member of the multidisciplinary team in order to provide care for women requiring obstetric surgery under the supervision of a registered midwife.

All care provided is under the direct supervision of a registered midwife

Learning Outcomes for students who have a short placement in theatre

By the end of the placement the midwifery student will be able to:

- Understand the importance of adherence to safety and infection control guidelines for theatre
- Understand the principles of aseptic techniques including scrubbing, gowning, preparation of equipment trolley, handling and care of instruments, disposal of waste materials
- Participate in a preoperative admission of the woman to theatre utilising the preoperative checklist and adhering to safety criteria
- Participate in the preparation and care of the newborn following caesarean section
- Participate in the transfer and care of the woman and the newborn in the Recovery Room following a caesarean section including:
 - Vital signs, blood loss, wound care, bladder care, drains
 - Fluid Balance, pain relief,
 - Observe for signs of shock or hypothermia
 - Psychological care
 - Assessment and care of newborn including the first feed and promotion of bonding

Learning Outcomes for students who have a longer placement in theatre:

By the end of the placement the midwifery student will be able to:

- Provide safe physical, psychological and emotional support for the woman and her partner in theatre
- Participate in preparing the woman for caesarean section including positioning the theatre bed, auscultation of the fetal heart, urinary catheterisation, use of diathermy and pressure area care
- Participate in assisting the anaesthetist with local, general and spinal anaesthetic administration
- Participate in the intra operative care of women undergoing an elective caesarean section
- Circulate in theatre to assist the scrub midwife, anaesthetist and obstetric team
- Prepare equipment for the birth of the baby and assess the wellbeing of the newborn at birth, including babies who require paediatric assessment and neonatal care
- Participate in surgical counts (swabs and instruments) and the documentation of same
- Participate in the safe transfer of the woman and her baby to the Recovery Room following a caesarean section and later to the postnatal ward

Facilitation to participate in the following situations as opportunities arise:

- Insert a urinary catheter
- Scrub for and assist at a caesarean section
- Participate in obtaining, checking and the safe administration of blood products according to hospital guidelines
- Undertake cord blood sampling
- Participate in the management and care of a woman with an obstetric emergency including
 - Emergency Caesarean section
 - Massive obstetric haemorrhage
 - Cord prolapse
 - Uterine rupture
 - Maternal collapse
 - Neonatal resuscitation
- Participate in the management and care of a woman undergoing
 - ERPC for pregnancy loss
 - Instrumental delivery in theatre +/- proceed to caesarean section
 - Examination under anaesthesia
 - Cervical cerclage -Insertion of Shirodker or McDonald's Suture
 - Perineal wound repair
 - Manual removal of placenta

Prior to the placement the midwifery student must have knowledge and understanding of:

Safety and infection control procedure in theatre

<p>Principles of pre-operative and postoperative care</p> <p>Care of pregnant woman requiring surgical procedures</p> <p>Indications for elective and emergency caesarean section</p>
