

Birthing Suite 1st Placement

Aim

The aim of this placement is to orient midwifery students to the intrapartum care of women and their babies from admission to the Birthing suite until transfer to the postnatal area.

Students may reach **Exposure** level in relevant **Performance Criteria** in order to achieve aspects or completion of their **Midwifery Competencies**. BSc students can aim to achieve clinical skills relevant to the area. All students should gain experience of providing care to a woman during labour and birth. Students should experience examinations of woman and baby for the **Clinical Practice Experience** book (EU/ABA requirements)

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

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the placement the midwifery student will:

- Observe the admission of mother and her partner to the Birthing Suite and prepare the environment for labour and birth
- Observe the routine intrapartum care of the woman
 - Woman's plan for the birth and factors that contribute to a safe and positive birth experience for the woman
 - Strategies to support woman in labour
 - Methods of pain relief, pharmacological and non pharmacological
 - Observations of maternal and fetal wellbeing throughout labour
 - Assessment of progress in labour including vaginal examination and other signs of progress
 - Use of partograph and other documentation
- Observe the preparation for a birth including
 - Recognise signs of transition to the 2nd stage of labour
 - Prepare the environment and equipment for birth
 - Provide support to woman and partner during the birth
- Observe the 3rd stage of labour
 - Understand the active and physiological management of the 3rd stage of labour
 - Examination and safe disposal of placenta and membranes
- Observe and participate in the care of the mother in the early postpartum period
 - Promotion of mother infant attachment including skin to skin care
 - Assessment of maternal wellbeing postpartum
 - Transfer and handover of the mother and baby to the postnatal area
- Observe the assessment and care of the newborn baby
 - Initial care of the newborn including assessment of Apgar Score

- Initial examination of the newborn including weight and observations
- Principles of baby security and use of identity bands
- Administration of Vitamin K
- Skin to skin care and initiation of feeding

Facilitation of opportunities to observe the care of the women experiencing:

- Induction of labour
- Intrapartum complications including instrumental birth and preparation for emergency caesarean section
- Management of perineum including perineal trauma, episiotomy and suturing
- Care of women with medical or pregnancy conditions which complicate labour

Prior to the placement the midwifery student should have an awareness of:

Mechanism and physiology of the three stages of labour
Routine intrapartum care for women and their babies including fetal monitoring
Intrapartum complications
Care of the newborn baby

Birth Suite

Aim

The aim of this placement is to enable midwifery students to develop competency in the intrapartum care of women and their newborn.

Competencies linked to this placement

Students are expected to reach **Participation/ Identification /Internalisation** level in relevant **Performance Criteria** in order to achieve aspects or completion of their **Midwifery Competencies**. BSc students should achieve clinical skills relevant to the area. All students should gain experience of providing care to women in labour and birth and also the assessment, care and management of the newborn baby for the **Clinical Practice Experience** book (EU/ABA requirements)

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

4th Year BSc students and 2nd Year Higher Diploma in Midwifery students should actively contribute to midwifery practice as a member of the multidisciplinary team in order to provide care for women in labour under the supervision of a registered midwife.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the placement the midwifery student will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the physiology and mechanism of labour (onset, 1st, 2nd and 3rd stages) and how this enables the midwife to provide safe intrapartum care to women and their babies
- Admit and welcome the woman and her partner to the Birth Suite, review her history and wellbeing in pregnancy, establish a supportive relationship to help her relax in this new environment, ascertain her plans for the birth and adjust environment appropriate to her individual needs
- Participate in the care of the woman in labour ensuring that she remains a partner in the plan for her care which may change as labour progresses
 - Assess the psychological, emotional, social, physical wellbeing of the woman and be aware of any deviations from normal
 - Consider the factors that contribute to a safe and satisfying birth experience
- Utilise a range of strategies to support the woman through labour
 - Understand approaches to pain relief available, use of music, water (bath, shower, pool), birthing ball, relaxation, breathing techniques, visualisation, changing positions, mobility, movement, TENS
 - Understand the methods of pharmacological methods of pain relief available, Entonox, pethidine, epidural, their advantages, safety and potential side effects

- Observe and assess maternal wellbeing in labour
 - Assessment of uterine contractions by observation and palpation length, strength, frequency
 - Assessment of progress in labour including, abdominal examination, vaginal examination and other signs of progress
 - Vital signs – temperature, pulse, respirations, blood pressure
 - Bladder care and vaginal loss

- Observe and assess fetal wellbeing in labour
 - Fetal heart using Pinards, Doppler and CTG
 - Assessment of amniotic fluid - volume, colour, odour
 - Position and descent of presenting part including detection of occipito posterior (OP) positions

- Participate in the care of a woman receiving an epidural for her labour
 - Assist anaesthetist in the administration of epidural analgesia
 - Assist in positioning the woman following its administration
 - Participate in the management of IV fluids monitoring of B/P and bladder care including catheterisation according to protocol

- Participate in the care of women experiencing
 - Induction of labour
 - Augmentation of labour, use of oxytocin (Syntocinon) and amniotomy (ARM)
 - Application of fetal scalp electrode (FSE)
 - Assistance with fetal blood sampling (FBS)

- Use of partograph and other required documentation

- Participate in the preparation for a birth including
 - Recognise the signs of transition to the 2nd stage of labour, including change in nature of contractions and maternal behaviour (resting period or expulsive efforts), blood stained 'show' (operculum), 'purple' line, opening of vulva and anus (as head descends), full dilatation of cervix on VE, descent (station) and rotation of presenting part
 - Prepare the environment and equipment for a birth

- Support and assist the woman in the spontaneous birth of her baby
 - Provide positive encouragement and support to the woman during the birth
 - Monitor maternal and fetal wellbeing and observe for signs that birth is imminent
 - Protect perineum during the birth and maintain asepsis, performing episiotomy as indicated
 - Facilitate birth if different positions including upright, squatting and 'all fours'

- Participate in the care of the woman in the 3rd stage of her labour

- Active management - use of oxytocin, cord clamping, signs of placental separation, controlled cord traction (CCT) for placenta and membranes
 - Physiological management - delayed cord clamping, awaiting signs of separation, placenta expelled by gravity and maternal effort
 - Cord blood sampling as required
 - Estimation and documentation of blood loss including recognition of excessive loss or evidence of maternal hemodynamic compromise
 - Examination and safe disposal of placenta and membranes
 - Assessment of genital tract for perineal trauma and suturing as required
- Participate in the care of the woman experiencing intrapartum complications which require obstetric intervention including
 - Instrumental birth –types of forceps and vacuum, indications, information for woman, consent, preparation of woman
 - Emergency caesarean section, indications, information for woman, consent, preparation for theatre
- Identify situations where obstetric or paediatric review is required, provide accurate and clear information and follow medical instructions in relation to the care of the woman or baby
- Care of the mother in the early postpartum period
 - Promotion of mother infant attachment including skin to skin care
 - Assessment of the physiological, psychological and emotional wellbeing of the woman including abdominal assessment, vaginal loss, pain assessment and management
 - Participate in the transfer and handover of the mother and baby to the postnatal area
- Participate in the assessment and care of the newborn baby
 - Initial care of the newborn including assessment of Apgar Score
 - Initial examination of the newborn including weight and observations
 - Principles of baby security and use of identity bands
 - Administration of Vitamin K
 - Skin to skin care and initiation of feeding
- Demonstrate awareness of legislation in relation to completing, storing and retaining records of childbirth and midwifery practice

Facilitation of opportunities to observe and participate in the care of the women experiencing:

- Conditions which complicate labour
 - Fetal concerns
 - § IUGR, congenital anomalies, preterm labour, twins and other multiple births, malposition and malpresentation, infections, chorioamnionitis, group B Strep (GBS) , genital tract sepsis group A Strep (GAS)

- § Intrauterine death (IUD), care of woman in labour with a non viable fetus including care of baby
- Maternal and fetal concerns
 - § PET, eclampsia,
 - § Diabetes, obesity
 - § Medical conditions, cardiac, renal, respiratory, infections, HIV
 - § Mental health
 - § Retained placenta
- Recognise an emergency situation and take appropriate action in accordance with practice guidelines
 - Fetal distress, shoulder dystocia
 - Cord prolapse, uterine rupture
 - APH, PPH, eclampsia
 - Neonatal resuscitation
 - Collapsed woman
- Care of neonate who requires admission to the neonatal unit
 - Preterm, low birth weight, growth restriction, congenital anomaly, congenital infection

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

Mechanism and physiology of the three stages of labour
Routine intrapartum care for women and their babies and care of women with high risk pregnancies
Intrapartum complications
Care of the newborn baby

Induction Room

Part of Birthing Suite placement

Students should use this placement to maximise their understanding of the needs of women undergoing induction of labour and the support required to woman and their partners at this time.

Aim

The aim of this placement is to enable midwifery students to observe and participate in the care of women requiring an induction of labour.

Competencies linked to this placement

As students spend a short time in the Induction Room 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 BSc students and 2nd Year Higher Diploma in Midwifery students should actively contribute to midwifery practice as a member of the multidisciplinary team in order to provide care for women undergoing induction of labour under the supervision of a registered midwife.

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

Learning Outcomes

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

- Participate in the admission of women to the Induction Room including the assessment of the woman and her plan of care
- Demonstrate an understanding of the various methods of induction of labour including the management of both low and high risk women
- Assess the physiological, psychological, social, emotional needs of the woman undergoing induction of labour including abdominal assessment and vaginal examination and documentation of findings
- Provide safe, psychological and emotional support to the woman undergoing induction of labour
- Undertake fetal heart rate monitoring using Pinard, Sonicaid, and CTG monitor including interpretation and documentation of findings.
- Participate in the management of I/V fluids and the use of oxytocin
- Collaborate with members of the multidisciplinary team to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the woman
- Recognise the initiation of labour and monitor the progress of early labour
- Recognise the woman's readiness for transfer to the birthing room
- Recognise deviations from the normal and inform the midwife or doctor as appropriate

- Recognise and respond appropriately to emergencies affecting the health or safety of the woman and/or her fetus
- Understand and implement hospital policies related to induction of labour

Facilitation to undertake the following activities:

Under **direct** supervision of a registered midwife the midwifery student can:

- Perform a vaginal examination and assess findings using the Bishop's scoring system of assessment. Document findings and discuss findings with woman.
- Interpret and document fetal heart recordings from a CTG
- Obtain a blood sample and ensure this is dispatched correctly to the appropriate laboratory
- Site an I/V canula and commence an I/V infusion

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

Indications for induction of labour

Methods of induction

Vaginal assessment using the Bishop's Score

Labour induction for women with pregnancy complications or a previous caesarean section

Care of women in early labour including assessment of progress

Investigations and monitoring of fetal and maternal wellbeing

High Dependency Unit (HDU)

Part of Birthing Suite placement

Aim

The aim of this placement is to enable midwifery students to observe and participate in the care of women under direct supervision requiring High Dependency Care.

Competencies linked to this placement

As students spend a short time in HDU they are only required to reach **participation** level in terms of their **Performance criteria**. 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.

3rd / 4th Year and Higher Diploma students should actively contribute to midwifery practice in order to provide care for women requiring High Dependency Care under the direct supervision of a registered midwife.

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

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the placement the midwifery student will:

- Develop an understanding of the midwives' role in supporting and assisting women who require high dependency care during pregnancy, labour or postpartum period
- Understand the principles of high risk monitoring and vigilance in the observation of a woman requiring high dependency care, including an understanding of early warning scores.
- Participate in the handling of blood specimens ordered including taking the samples, completing blood forms, dispatch of samples and timely following up of the results
- Participate in providing care for women in HDU focusing on the wellbeing of the woman and her risk status including assessment of:
 - Vital signs, blood loss, wound care, drains, fluid balance, bladder care, care of central venous pressure (CVP) lines, arterial lines, blood transfusion
 - Management of pain and administration of analgesia
 - Administration of prescribed medications and appropriate monitoring of efficacy and potential side effects
 - Psychological and emotional care of woman and her partner
 - Assessment of fetal wellbeing including, FHR, CTG interpretation and fetal movements/activity

- Assessment and care of newborn and promotion of maternal infant attachment
- Recognise changes in the woman's condition or that of the fetus and respond appropriately
- Discuss the special needs and care of women who are in the HDU for:
 - Preterm labour
 - Pre eclampsia/ eclampsia/ HELLP syndrome, including the protocol for magnesium sulphate administration
 - APH - placenta previa, abruptio
 - PPH
 - Diabetes
 - Thromboembolic disorders DVT/Pulmonary embolism
 - Surgical complications including gynaecology
 - Hepatic disorders
 - Epilepsy
 - Ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome
 - Peripartum or genital tract sepsis
- Transfer of woman and baby to/from HDU and provide handover

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

Indications for admission to HDU

Care of woman requiring high dependency care for obstetric reasons

Safety and infection control procedures in HDU

Principles of high dependency care