

Neonatal Unit

Students should use this placement to maximise their understanding of the needs of babies requiring neonatal intensive care and the support required for families at this time.

Aim

The aim of this placement is to enable midwifery students to observe and participate in the care of neonates requiring neonatal intensive or special care

As students spend a short time in the Neonatal Unit they are only required to reach **exposure or 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/nurse, preferably the student's preceptor, in the Competency Assessment Booklet. All students should gain experience of **Newborn Examinations** for the **Clinical Practice Experience** book (EU/ABA requirements)

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

Learning Outcomes

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

- Assess the health and wellbeing of the special care baby.
- Recognise warning signs of abnormality in the special care baby, which necessitate referral to the unit manager/doctor
- Recognise and respond appropriately to emergencies affecting the health or safety of mother and or special care baby.
- Provide all the necessary support to the mother to enable her to care for her baby and adapt to her new role.
- Monitor progress of parents' emotional state and adaptation to parenthood.

NNU Intensive Care

- Observe admission of a ill/premature baby
- Recognise the particular needs of the ill or preterm infant
- Understand the characteristics of low birth weight baby
- Understand the characteristics of preterm baby
- Observe care of a baby receiving ventilation/CPAP (this can include setting up of equipment)

NNU Special Care

- Implement infection control policies for the unit
- Carry out daily assessment of the newborn including:
 - ID checking
 - Vital signs – temperature, respirations, heart, O₂ saturation
- Participate in daily care of the newborn including:
 - Skin, cord, eye care
 - Feeding, elimination, sleeping

- Nutrition, glucose monitoring, thermoregulation
 - Capillary blood sampling, fluid/nutrition requirements
- Care and support for parents
- Participate in nasogastric /orogastric tube insertion and tube feeding
- Participate in ward round
- Participate in care of baby receiving phototherapy
- Participate in discharge planning
- Provide support to breastfeeding mothers:
 - Expressing breast milk, storage and administration of breast milk to baby
- Recognise factors that promote health and development of newborn:
 - Family Centred Care
 - Developmental Care (NIDCAP)
 - Kangaroo care

Facilitation of opportunities to observe and participate in other activities:

- Care of a baby with a congenital abnormality
- Care of baby requiring Intravenous fluid infusion
- Care of baby in an incubator, including setting up and care of equipment
- Neonatal resuscitation
- Temperature control – incubator, servo
- Use of pulse oxymeter and other methods of newborn monitoring
- Insertion of central lines or other invasive procedures
- Intubation and neonatal respiratory support

This list is not exhaustive and will reflect unit activity during the placement.

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

Indications for babies to be admitted to neonatal care
 Examination of newborn
 Principles of assessment of newborn