4. An exploration of the incorporation of the newborn examination into the pre-registration midwifery curriculum based on the views of experienced midwifery neonatal examiners.

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Theme: Developing midwifery careers

Abstract

The objectives of this study were to describe the experiences of Midwives who currently practice newborn examination (NIPE), their views regarding the inclusion of this skill in pre-registration education and to identify potential strategies for implementation in practice.

This was a qualitative, descriptive study. Seven Midwives who undertake NIPE examinations were intentionally recruited from one NHS Trust. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews and analysed using Thematic Analysis.

Three main themes were identified:

1. Midwives’ experiences of the role, motivation, and differences in professional culture.

2. Positive aspects and challenges that including NIPE in midwifery education would bring.

3. Practical considerations and changes to service provision.

Findings identified that midwives undertaking NIPE examinations welcomed the inclusion of NIPE in pre-registration midwifery education and viewed it as a necessary addition in order to maintain sustainability of a midwife led NIPE service. National standards for the preparation and assessment of newborn examiners, regardless of profession, should be developed as presently the UK lacks a consistent approach.

Implications for practice include maximising the opportunities for interprofessional learning, a preceptorship period for newly qualified NIPE examiners and consideration of changes to service provision to maximise efficiency.