The Future Midwife: transforming midwifery care for everyone

Dr Jacqui Williams Senior Midwifery Advisors (Education)
The challenge for the NMC

What standards of proficiency should we set to make sure newly qualified midwives at the point of registration are:

• able to meet the needs, views and preferences of women, newborn infants and families
• safe
• effective
• respectful
• kind and compassionate?
Midwifery: the changing context in the UK…

Report of the Morecambe Bay Investigation
... and internationally
Evidence, key lessons & policy

- Existing and new and emerging evidence
- Changing demographics and population health
- Lessons from key reports and surveys
- National policy in the four countries
Evidence from The Lancet Series on Midwifery

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<tr>
<th>Practice categories</th>
<th>For all childbearing women and infants</th>
<th>For childbearing women and infants with complications</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>First-line management of complications</td>
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<td>Information</td>
<td>Information</td>
<td>Medical obstetric neonatal services</td>
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<td>Health promotion</td>
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<td>Assessment</td>
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<td>Screening</td>
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<td>Care planning</td>
<td>Care planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promotion of normal processes, prevention of complications</td>
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<tr>
<th>Organisation of care</th>
<th>Available, accessible, acceptable, good-quality services—adequate resources, competent workforce</th>
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<td>Continuity, services integrated across community and facilities</td>
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<th>Values</th>
<th>Respect, communication, community knowledge, and understanding</th>
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<td>Care tailored to women's circumstances and needs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Philosophy</th>
<th>Optimising biological, psychological, social, and cultural processes; strengthening woman's capabilities</th>
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<td>Expectant management, using interventions only when indicated</td>
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<th>Care providers</th>
<th>Practitioners who combine clinical knowledge and skills with interpersonal and cultural competence</th>
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<td>Division of roles and responsibilities based on need, competencies, and resources</td>
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New standards for the future midwife

Enabling educators and midwives of the future to provide innovative education & the best and safest care for all women & newborn infants
Structure of the new standards

Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education

Standards for student supervision and assessment

Programme standards

Standards of proficiency for nursing and midwifery professions
Transforming care (1)

Focussed on the needs, views, preferences and decisions of women and the needs of newborn infants
Transforming care (2)

Supporting physical, psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual safety
Transforming care (3)

Understanding the impact of pregnancy, labour and birth, postpartum, infant feeding and the early weeks of life on longer term health and wellbeing
17 interrelated themes

For example:

• Enabling and advocating for human rights of women and newborn infants
• Developing, finding, critiquing, using best evidence
• Taking personal responsibility for ongoing learning and development
• Enabling and advocating for needs, views, preferences, decisions
• Continuity of care and carer
Standards of proficiency: six inter-related domains

1. Being an accountable, autonomous, professional midwife
2. Safe and effective midwifery care: promoting and providing continuity of care and carer
3. Universal care for all women and newborn infants
4. Additional care for women and newborn infants with complications
5. Promoting excellence: the midwife as colleague, scholar and leader
6. The midwife as skilled practitioner
6: The midwife as skilled practitioner

Domain 6 – All midwifery skills

Skills for Domain 1
Being accountable, autonomous, professional midwife

Skills for Domain 2
Promoting and providing continuity of care and carer

Skills for Domain 3
Assessment, screening, planning, care and support across the continuum
Evidence-based medicines administration and optimisation
Universal care for all women and newborn infants

Skills for Domain 4

Skills for Domain 5
Additional care for women and newborn infants with complications
Promoting excellence
Summary of key changes

- 6 interconnected domains
- 17 themes throughout proficiencies
- Based on the Lancet framework
- Role of the midwife
- Views, preferences & decision of women, partners and families
- Human rights, ethics and cultural competence
- Continuity of care/carer
- Interdisciplinary working
- Full systematic examination of the newborn
- Improved knowledge of medicines management
Key considerations for new midwifery programmes

- Continuity of carer for student midwives
- Supervision and assessment
- Simulation
- Full systematic examination of the newborn
- EU Directive
- MPAD – All England and NI, Wales and Scotland
- Different routes & exit awards – BSc (Hons), MSc, shortened, apprenticeship
- Transition arrangements
What do the new standards mean for current midwives?

• Midwives supporting student midwives

• Student midwives on current midwifery programmes

• Role and scope of practice, your development

• Supervision by other healthcare professionals

• New skills e.g. systematic examination of the newborn
Thank you

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