Core Curriculum
of
Midwifery Training
for
Registered Nurses

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Midwives Council of Hong Kong
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Length of Course

Duration of the training programme is 18 calendar months, which includes public holidays and up to 14 days of leave/absence per year.

Entry Requirement

General Registered Nurses whose names appear on the register of the Nursing Council of Hong Kong.

Theoretical Component

The minimum curriculum hours recommended is 480 hours. It should cover an introductory block of no less than 2 weeks. Other hours could be arranged either as blocks or study days during clinical experience.

Clinical Experience

The minimum clinical experience recommended is 46 weeks. The clinical experience should be acquired in the following wards/clinics for the period specified and should include the followings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward/Clinic</th>
<th>No. of weeks/sessions (minimum)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antenatal Ward / Antenatal Day Care Centre</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Ward</td>
<td>15 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postnatal Ward</td>
<td>12 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal Unit</td>
<td>3 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinics (Antenatal, Postnatal)</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal and Child Health Centre</td>
<td>2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Midwifery Experiences</td>
<td>2 sessions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GENERAL PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

The core curriculum sets out in broad terms the aim and objectives of the course, the subjects to be studied and the clinical experience required during the 18-month midwifery training leading to registration in Hong Kong.

Each individual school of midwifery can devise its curriculum in accordance with the requirement stipulated in the core curriculum. Student midwives should be encouraged to take the initiative in seeking learning opportunities for their professional and personal development.

AIM

The aim of the midwifery training course is to prepare a competent midwife who is able to provide safe and quality family-centered midwifery care.

OBJECTIVES

After completion of this course, the student midwife should be able to:

1. provide family-centered midwifery care;
2. apply knowledge to assess and meet the health needs of childbearing woman;
3. identify risk factors and deviations from normal in order to plan and implement appropriate midwifery interventions;
4. demonstrate individual responsibility and accountability for the midwifery profession;
5. function effectively in a multidisciplinary team;
6. appreciate evidence based midwifery practice;
7. assume a health promoting role regarding pregnancy, labour and puerperium for the woman and her family.
THEORETICAL COMPONENT

The student midwife has to complete the following subjects:

1. Professional Issues in Midwifery
2. Biological Sciences related to Childbearing
3. Normal Pregnancy, Labour and Puerperium
4. Abnormal Pregnancy, Labour and Puerperium
5. The Newborn Baby
6. Behavioural Sciences and Social Aspects related to Childbearing
Subject Title: Professional Issues in Midwifery

Aim

The aim of the subject is to enable the student midwife to accept individual responsibility and accountability for the midwifery profession.

Objectives

This subject will enable the student midwife to:

1. have an understanding of the midwifery profession; its history, development, current context and contemporary issues;
2. relate the concept of an independent practitioner to midwifery care for childbearing families;
3. consider the impact of cultural influences on models and patterns of midwifery care;
4. accept the responsibilities in accordance with professional code of practice;
5. discuss the significant legal and ethical issues relating to midwifery practice;
6. appreciate the use of relevant literature and research to inform the practice of midwifery.

Syllabus

1. History of midwifery
2. Role of the midwife
3. Professional conduct
4. The statutory and legal framework for midwifery
5. Ethical issues in midwifery
6. Models and patterns of midwifery care
7. Contemporary midwifery practices
8. Evidence based midwifery practice
9. Quality assurance in maternity care
Subject Title: Biological Sciences related to Childbearing

Aim

The aim of the subject is to provide the student midwife with basic knowledge of human development and physiology related to pregnancy and childbirth.

Objectives

This subject will enable the student midwife to:

1. have the knowledge on the reproductive anatomy and physiology related to conception;
2. describe the placental physiology and fetal development;
3. analyse the anatomical and physiological changes during pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
4. describe the mechanism of normal labour;
5. have the knowledge on safe use of drugs in obstetrics.

Syllabus

1. Human reproduction
2. Female pelvis
3. Embryonic and fetal development
4. Anatomy and physiology related to pregnancy
5. Anatomy and physiology related to labour
6. Anatomy and physiology related to puerperium
7. Mechanism of normal labour
8. Pharmacology in obstetrics
Subject Title: Normal Pregnancy, Labour and Puerperium

Aim

The aim of the subject is to enable the student midwife to provide optimal midwifery care for normal pregnant women and their families.

Objectives

This subject will enable the student midwife to:

1. understand the significance of preconceptual care;
2. develop the ability to carry out comprehensive assessment to identify the physical and psycho-social needs of the pregnant woman and her family during pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
3. plan and provide appropriate midwifery care to meet the needs of the woman, her fetus and family during pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
4. recognise changes in health status of the woman and her fetus which necessitate referral to a doctor;
5. plan a programme of childbirth and parenthood preparation;
6. provide family planning information and advice.

Syllabus

1. Preconceptual care
2. Screening and assessment of maternal and fetal well-being
3. Antenatal care
4. Management of normal labour
5. Management of normal puerperium
6. Preparation for parenthood
7. Family planning
Subject Title: Abnormal Pregnancy, Labour and Puerperium

Aim

The aim of the subject is to enable the student midwife to have the ability to detect abnormalities during pregnancy, labour and puerperium and assist in their management.

Objectives

This subject will enable the student midwife to:

1. understand the scope of high-risk pregnancy;
2. recognise common factors that may have an adverse effect on the physical, emotional or social well-being of the woman and her fetus during pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
3. discuss the midwife’s roles in managing abnormal pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
4. analyse the impact of an abnormal pregnancy on the woman and her family.

Syllabus

1. Infections in pregnancy
2. Disorders/Problems associated with pregnancy
3. Medical disorders complicating pregnancy
4. Structural abnormalities affecting pregnancy
5. Malposition and malpresentation
6. Operative deliveries and obstetric anaesthesia
7. Obstetric emergencies
8. Problems associated with labour
9. Problems in puerperium
Subject Title: The Newborn Baby

Aim

The aim of the subject is to enable the student midwife to provide care for the newborn baby.

Objectives

This subject will enable the student midwife to:

1. describe the physiological responses of the newborn at birth;
2. outline the immediate assessment and resuscitation process;
3. have the knowledge on the newborn assessment and care;
4. identify deviations from normal and provide appropriate interventions;
5. evaluate strategies necessary to support the woman and her family with an at-risk newborn;
6. appreciate the midwife’s roles in promoting breastfeeding;
7. analyse the normal development of the infant in the first year of life, e.g. milestones, feeding pattern and immunisation.

Syllabus

1. Physiological adaptation
2. Newborn care
3. Newborn at-risk
   - Low birth weight infant
   - Birth asphyxia
   - Neonatal jaundice
   - Congenital abnormalities
   - Birth injuries
   - Neonatal infection
4. Care of family with an at-risk newborn
5. Infant feeding
6. Infant development in the first year
Subject Title: Behavioural Sciences and Social Aspects related to Childbearing

Aim
The aim of the subject is to enable the student midwife to facilitate individual and family adaptation to childbearing.

Objectives
This subject will enable the student midwife to:

1. discuss the psychological changes that commonly occur in a pregnant woman during pregnancy, labour and puerperium;
2. integrate the concept of family dynamics in maternity care;
3. utilise communication and counselling skills in meeting the individual needs and concerns of the childbearing woman, her family and other health teams;
4. apply the principles of teaching and learning in health education;
5. identify the social and health services for childbearing woman in Hong Kong;
6. analyse the vital statistics and its implication for midwifery practice.

Syllabus

1. Psychology of childbearing
2. Family dynamics
3. Communication and counselling skills
4. Grief and bereavement
5. Health promotion and education in midwifery
6. Social and health services for childbearing woman
7. Vital statistics in maternity care
CLINICAL COMPONENT

**AIM**

The aim of the clinical component is to provide the student midwife with learning experiences, which will develop her ability to become a competent midwife.

To become a competent midwife, the student midwife needs to possess the fundamental knowledge, skills and attitude expected of a practitioner at beginner level. Thus, the following 5 aspects of basic midwifery practice form the basis of the clinical objectives.

By the end of the clinical placement, the student midwife should be able to:

1. assess and monitor the physical and psycho-social needs of:
   - a woman and her family during pregnancy, labour and puerperium, and
   - her fetus/infant during pregnancy, labour and the neonatal period;
2. plan, implement and evaluate the care provided to meet the needs of the woman, her fetus/infant and family during pregnancy, labour, puerperium and the neonatal period;
3. assume responsibility to identify specific complications, emergencies and deviations from normal, and initiate collaborative management or appropriate referrals;
4. assume a health promoting role regarding pregnancy, labour, puerperium and the neonatal period for woman and her family;
5. use appropriate and effective communication skills with woman and her family, colleagues and members of other health care teams.
CLINICAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The concepts and skills identified below should be applied to all components of midwifery care and comprise the foundation upon which practice guidelines and curriculum contents must be built.

1. Assessment

By the end of the clinical placement, the student midwife should be able to:

- demonstrate skills in carrying out comprehensive assessment and monitoring;
- demonstrate an ability to analyse the information gathered from the assessment;
- identify the needs of a woman, her fetus/infant and family based on assessment;
- recognise changes in health status of a woman and her fetus/infant;
- accurately complete all the relevant documents.

2. Planning, implementation and evaluation

By the end of the clinical placement, the student midwife should be able to:

- develop care plans according to individual needs;
- demonstrate the ability to perform clinical midwifery procedure;
- conduct normal deliveries;
- critically evaluate and modify care to meet the changing physiological and psychosocial needs of a woman, her fetus/infant and family;
- demonstrate an attitude of safety consciousness in the planning and delivery of maternal and neonatal care;
- accurately complete all the relevant documents.
3.  **Recognise deviations from normal and give appropriate interventions**

By the end of the clinical placement, the student midwife should be able to:

- identify situations which require referral to other members of the health care team;
- recognise deviations from normal including complications and emergencies and give appropriate interventions;
- demonstrate an ability to assist in carrying out obstetric procedures;
- accurately complete all the relevant documents.

4.  **Health promotion and education**

By the end of the clinical placement, the student midwife should be able to:

- identify the health services available within the community for promoting maternal and child health;
- apply the principles of teaching and learning in health education for the woman and her family;
- provide sound family planning information and counselling;
- assist the woman and her family in the development of parenting skills;
- understand the significance of infant development.
5. Communication and interpersonal skills

By the end of the clinical placement, the student midwife should be able to:

- utilise appropriate communication and interpersonal skills in the delivery of midwifery care;
- apply effective communication and interpersonal skills in educating the woman and her family;
- apply effective communication and interpersonal skills in counselling the woman and her family;
- demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with other members of the health care team;
- maintain concise and legible midwifery records.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

During clinical placement, the student midwife should:

- take antenatal histories for at least 20 pregnant women on their first visits;
- carry out antenatal examination on at least 50 pregnant women;
- manage the labour and conduct at least 30 deliveries;
- personally take care of at least 20 postnatal women and their infants;
- supervise and take care of at least 50 women at risk in pregnancy, or labour, or postnatal period.

Clinical Log Book

Each midwifery school should have a log book for recording the clinical experience. The format and design are to be decided by individual school.
ASSESSMENT

The training school is required to assess the progress of student midwives throughout the programme, including the clinical assessments and case studies. On completion of the 18-month programme as specified in the core curriculum, student midwives would be allowed to sit for the examination conducted by the Midwives Council of Hong Kong which consists of a written examination and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).
1. **Clinical Assessment**

Student midwife is required to complete and pass three clinical assessments before the Midwives Council Examination. The three clinical assessments are:

- Antenatal assessment
- Normal vaginal delivery
- Postnatal assessment and health education

Student midwife is allowed to take a maximum of three attempts for any clinical assessment. On the third attempt, the student midwife should be assessed by two assessors.

2. **Case Study**

Student midwife is required to complete two case studies, one on low-risk case and one on an abnormal case before the student midwife can be admitted to the Midwives Council Examination.

3. **Midwives Council Examination**

The Midwives Council Examination consists of two parts. Part I is the Written Examination and Part II is the OSCE.

3.1 **Written Examination – Part I**

It is a 3-hour examination consisting of multiple choice questions, short and long essay questions.

3.2 **Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) – Part II**

The OSCE is to assess the clinical competence of candidates which takes about 1.5 hours.