



**NATIONAL STUDENT MIDWIFE
COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT TOOL**

Direct Supervision Placement

Higher Diploma Midwifery

Full Student Name (as per NMBI Register):

Student College ID number:

Date/Year Commenced Programme:

Personal Tutor:

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

An Coláiste Ollscoile Baile Átha Cliath

**UCD SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY
& HEALTH SYSTEMS**

Scoil na hAltrachta, an Cnáimhseachais agus
na gCoras Slainte

In partnership with the
National Maternity Hospital



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This document remains the property of the Higher Education Institute (HEI), and its care is the responsibility of the undergraduate midwifery student

SIGNATURE BANK

Each Registered Midwife who acts as a Preceptor for this student must sign this signature bank

Print Name	Signature	Designation	NMBI Pin

Print Name	Signature	Designation	NMBI Pin

Instructions for use

This is a confidential document. This document remains the property of the Higher Education Institute (HEI), and its care is the responsibility of the undergraduate midwifery student. This document may not be altered. The student is responsible for its security and for maintaining it in good condition. The document should be available to authorised personnel on request.

PLEASE READ AND SIGN	
It is my responsibility to ensure that I have the correct documentation prior to going on practice placements i.e. MCAT document and clinical experience record book.	
I will carry this document with me at all times while on practice placements.	
It is my responsibility to ensure that the preceptor/co-preceptor signs the Signature Bank before signing the document.	
It is my responsibility to ensure that I have arranged a date for an initial interview.	
It is my responsibility to seek feedback on my progress throughout the placement.	
It is my responsibility to act in accordance with local policies and guidelines (e.g. uniform policy).	
It is my responsibility to have all documentation signed off within two weeks of completing clinical time.	
I understand that 100% attendance is required on all practice placements.	
I have read and understand the above instructions.	
Signature of Student: _____	Date: _____

Support whilst on practice placements

You are never alone when on practice placement and there are clinical, and university supports available to you.

Support Type	Professional	Role	Name Contact Details
Clinical Supports	Preceptor/Associate preceptor	To supervise and guide your performance. Your preceptor will liaise with the Clinical Co-Ordinator.	
	Clinical Co-ordinator	Supports and facilitates your learning. Monitors the quality of the clinical learning environment. Liaises with the University and your Personal Tutor.	
	Chaplain	Chaplain services are available to all patients and staff in the National Maternity Hospital.	Extension: 3121
	Employee Assistance Programme	A free and confidential service available to all staff. As employees of the hospital this includes Higher Diploma Midwifery (HDM) students.	Free phone 1800 995 955. Email: eap@vhics.ie
UCD SNMHS Supports	Personal Tutor	Offers assistance to you on matters, academic/clinical and personal. Your personal tutor will not routinely visit you when you are on placement, but if you are encountering any difficulties, they are available to support you. Your personal tutor liaises with the clinical site, CPC and preceptor.	
	Clinical Midwifery Tutor	Supports the integration of theory and clinical practice. Offers one-on-one learning support whilst on practice placements and arranges regular group tutorials in the clinical practice area to facilitate learning.	
	Student Advisor	Independent support who offers guidance on all matters, financial/personal/academic and clinical. Liaises with personal tutor.	

Introduction to the Competence Assessment Tool and Placement Records

This document contains the Midwifery Competence Assessment Tool (MCAT) for the Higher Diploma in Midwifery 'direct supervision' practice placement and guidance for its use.

Clinical practice is an integral part of the Midwife Registration programme, reflecting the practice-based nature of the midwifery profession. The development of skills, knowledge and professional behaviours represent a key component in the students' attainment of competence to practise as a registered midwife. The MCAT serves as a record of ongoing achievements during clinical practice over the 18-month post registration midwifery programme and completion of the document is required to register as a midwife in the Midwives Division of the Register of Nurses and Midwives maintained by the NMBI.

This document provides guidance to assist the student and her/his Preceptor/Co-preceptor to complete the MCAT. Each year, the student will be assessed in core midwifery practice placements at incremental levels by Preceptors/Co-preceptor and Registered Midwives, who support, supervise, and assess the student throughout her/his practice placement. It is recommended that this document be read in conjunction with the following:

- Academic Regulations and Procedures of the relevant HEI
and
- Any specific guidance provided by the midwifery team within the HEI or the Midwifery Practice Development team responsible for the programme.

The student and the Preceptor/Co-preceptor must be familiar with her/his individual roles and responsibilities, as outlined below, and with the processes and procedures associated with the assessment of competence and the documenting of these in the MCAT.

Competence for Entry to the Midwives Division of the Register of Nurses and Midwives Maintained by the NMBI

Competence is defined as ‘the ability of the registered midwife to practise safely and to fulfil their professional responsibility effectively’ (NMBI 2015). The competencies in this document specify the knowledge, understanding and skills that midwives must demonstrate when caring for women, newborn infants, partners and families across all care settings. They are based on the International Definition of the Midwife (ICM 2017) and reflect what the public can expect midwives to know and be able to do to deliver safe, effective, respectful, kind and compassionate midwifery care.

Assessment of Competence in the Midwife Registration Programme

The aim of the MCAT is to ensure that, on completion of the Midwife Registration programme, students provide safe, effective midwifery care in partnership with women during pregnancy, labour, birth and the postnatal period and provide care for the newborn and the infant.

The five competencies represent a broad enabling framework to facilitate the assessment of students’ clinical practice, with the emphasis on a holistic assessment of knowledge, skills and professional behaviours expected of a midwife. Each competence has a series of assessment criteria that are specific to each phase of the Midwife Registration programme, and outline what is expected of the student in core clinical midwifery placements. This facilitates incremental progression of the student under a spectrum of supervision, beginning with **Direct Supervision** and culminating in **Distant Supervision** at the end of the programme. The level of supervision expected for each level is stipulated by the NMBI (2016) and is defined in the MCAT specific to the level of the Midwife Registration programme. **Direct Supervision** applies to this document and is defined below.

Level and Description of Supervision	Scope of Practice
Direct Supervision: Defined as the Preceptor/Associate Preceptor (Co-preceptor) working with the student on a continuous basis whenever care is being provided to women and their babies. The student is expected to have observed and participated in practice with the Preceptor/Associate Preceptor (Co-preceptor) and be able to describe the care provided.	The student is a novice to the world of midwifery and requires exposure to all aspects of practice and direct supervision by the midwife. The student will be expected to have observed and participated in the care provided by the midwife to women in pregnancy and childbirth, and to mothers and babies in the postnatal period. The student should also be able to discuss the basic concepts involved. The student may require continuous prompting in the provision of midwifery care, and considerable direction in identifying their learning needs.

In each level of the Midwife Registration programme, all competencies and their associated assessment criteria must be assessed and successfully achieved when in a core practice placement before the student progresses to the next level of the programme. On completion of assessment, the student is deemed to have either passed or failed the competence/competencies.

Where competence/competencies have not been achieved, the student will be given an opportunity to repeat the entire practice placement and assessment. Following an opportunity to repeat, if the student fails the assessment, the student may be asked to exit the Midwife Registration programme. Regulations in relation to repeat attempts will be agreed and managed as per the Academic Regulations and Procedures of the relevant HEI.

Guidance on the Assessment of Competence Process

Successful completion of the MCAT facilitates student's progression from one level to the next, to culminate in competence in midwifery practice on completion of the 18-month Post Registration Midwifery Programme.

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the MCAT document is: (i) available on practice placement, (ii) completed accurately and (iii) submitted as per HEI guidelines on the prescribed submission date. It must be presented on request to the Preceptor/Co-preceptor, members of the Midwifery Practice Development team and to the relevant HEI personnel. While the MCAT was developed and published by the NMBI, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, the governance of the process involved in assessment of student competence remains with the respective HEI.

Prior to the start of the practice placement the student should review their learning needs, incorporate any earlier experience of the clinical settings and identify specific learning outcomes for the practice placement. In addition, the student should review the learning opportunities specific to the practice placement setting. If it is the student's first practice placement the student is advised to discuss learning outcomes with the clinical coordinator in Midwifery, practice placement module leader or link Lecturer.

The student is orientated to the placement on **day one** of the practice placement, ideally by their allocated Preceptor/Co-preceptor. Where this is not possible, a named midwife should be allocated to work with the student and details of Preceptor/Co-preceptor provided to the student and recorded on the duty roster.

By the end of the placement, the student and Preceptor/Co-preceptor review the learning outcomes and associated skills that the student is expected to achieve on completion of the practice placement.

- The student is deemed to have passed or failed in the assessment of competence.
- Feedback is provided by the Preceptor/Co-preceptor and student, and documentation is completed.
- This should be accompanied by written comments by the student and the Preceptor/Co-preceptor on the overall process and result of the assessment of competence to guide future learning needs.

Assessment of the student includes:

- Observation of relevant knowledge, skills and professional behaviours in the provision of care
- Demonstration by the student through participation in the provision of care
- Exploration of rationale for care with the student
- Discussion with other midwives who have supervised and supported the student in practice
- Demonstration by the student in a simulated situation, where demonstration in practice is not possible
- Reference to comments on follow up/feedback sheet and to development plans if used during the placement
- Review of student's attendance during practice placement.

Procedure where there are Concerns in Relation to a Student's Progress

Where there are concerns in relation to the student's progress, the Preceptor/Co-preceptor, in consultation with the student, should liaise with the Clinical Coordinator in Midwifery, and a learning plan must be put in place to support the student to successfully complete the relevant competence/competencies over the remaining time of the practice placement. Personal tutor should be informed and may provide advice and support regarding the learning plan.

The **learning plan** must be:

- Completed in the MCAT and referred to over the course of the remaining practice placement.
- Explicit in detailing what the student must do to successfully complete the assessment of competence.
- Communicated to the Personal Tutor supporting the practice placement area as appropriate.

Procedure when a student is unsuccessful in attaining competence.

The Preceptor/Co-preceptor documents the reason(s) for a failed assessment of competence and completes a **final learning plan** in consultation with the student, the CPCM and the Personal Tutor.

The written final learning plan must:

- Provide specific guidance to both the student and Preceptor/Co-preceptor on what is required to successfully complete the assessment of competence on the second attempt.
- The written final learning plan must reinforce the student's understanding of the reason for failing and be explicit in the event of a new Preceptor/Co-preceptor completing the repeat assessment.

If a student is unsuccessful in any element of the assessment of competence, the student's repeat attempt will have the same duration as the original placement. Procedures specific to each HEI in relation to a failed assessment of competence such as informing the relevant personnel in the HEI and arrangement of practice placement to facilitate reassessment will be provided locally by the HEI and must be adhered to (see appendix).

The Role and Responsibilities of the Midwifery Student

- The student is responsible for completion and submission of the completed MCAT to the HEI on the pre-arranged submission dates and at the end of the Midwife Registration programme.
- The student must be familiar with their individual role and responsibilities and with the processes and procedures associated with the assessment of competence and the documenting of these in the MCAT.
- If there are any operational difficulties in arranging working with a named Preceptor/Co-preceptor or organising practice placement assessment, the student must consult with the Clinical Midwifery Manager (CMM2) or deputy. If the difficulty cannot be resolved, the student should then contact the clinical co-ordinator in midwifery.

The Role and Responsibilities of the Preceptor/Co-preceptor

- The Preceptor/Co-preceptor must be a Registered Midwife on the Register of Midwives maintained by the NMBI and have completed a teaching and assessment programme.
- The Preceptor/Co-preceptor acts as a gatekeeper to the profession, ensuring professional standards within midwifery are maintained.
- The Preceptor/Co-preceptor acts as a role model demonstrating evidence-based midwifery care and assists the student to develop the inter-personal, technical, reflective and analytical skills that underpin midwifery care.
- The Preceptor/Co-preceptor actively involves and supervises the student in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of midwifery care.
- The Preceptor/Co-preceptor must be familiar with their individual role and responsibilities, and with the processes and procedures associated with the assessment of student competence and the completion of competence assessment documentation in the MCAT.

- The Preceptor/Co-preceptor will facilitate the student in arranging the initial, intermediate and final interviews and use these interviews to:
 - Review and discuss learning outcomes specific to the clinical area.
 - Identify and mutually agree the learning opportunities and learning resources that will facilitate the achievements of learning outcomes.
 - Assess learning needs in consultation with the student.
 - Identify competencies to be achieved, including assessment criteria and associated skills.
 - Provide ongoing constructive feedback identifying student strengths and weaknesses.
 - Complete the competence assessment documentation.
- If a student is unsuccessful in achieving competence the Preceptor/Co-preceptor and the student will complete an action plan.
- If a student has been absent in a placement where he/she is being assessed, the Preceptor/Co-preceptor may decide not to allow the assessment to proceed. Consultation in relation to this decision will take place with the clinical co-ordinator and the Personal Tutor.
- If at any stage, the Preceptor/Co-preceptor, in consultation with the clinical co-ordinator, has concerns about a student achieving their learning outcomes and competencies, the Preceptor/Co-preceptor may contact the Personal Tutor to discuss the issues. The student must be informed that this communication is being arranged. The Personal Tutor will provide guidance and support as appropriate.

Antenatal

Name of Practice Placement - Unit/Ward:
Number of weeks in this Practice Placement:
Placement Dates:
Name of Preceptor:
Name of Co-Preceptor:
Name of Clinical Co-ordinator:

Clinical Learning Outcomes

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Midwife Registration Programme Standards and Requirements (2022) states that: appropriate support and supervision and clearly defined learning outcomes should be provided for the student in practice placements.

Principle 1: Respect for the dignity of the person. The student:

- Respects all people – service users equally without discriminating on the grounds of age, gender, race, religion, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, disability (physical, mental or intellectual) or membership of the Traveller community
- Demonstrates respect for the service users' rights and choices
- Shows respect, kindness, compassion towards the service user and their families

Principle 2: Professional responsibility and accountability. The student is able to:

- Promote the level of professionalism expected of a student midwife in relation to punctuality, personal presentation and attitude, in accordance with clinical practice placements and university policies
- Work within the scope of practice for a student midwife and recognises their own level of knowledge, skills and professional behaviours
- Consistently make efforts to engage in their learning to enhance safe, competent, kind, compassionate and respectful professional care which is informed by the best available evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to listen, seek clarification and carry out instructions safely

Principle 3: Quality of practice. The student is able to:

- Participate with the midwife in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care of women and their babies.
- Participate with the midwife in the assessment of maternal and fetal wellbeing including accurate monitoring and reporting of vital signs.
- Comply with standard universal infection prevention and control measures
- Participate with the midwife in the safe management of drug administration, monitoring effects and documenting appropriately in accordance with NMBI medication administration guidance
- Participates with the midwife in reflecting on their own practice and can begin to identify their own learning needs.
- Demonstrate a willingness to learn from women, preceptors, midwives and colleagues

Principle 4: Trust and confidentiality. The student:

- Demonstrates honesty and trustworthiness
- Respects the service users right to privacy and confidentiality

Principle 5: Collaboration with others. The student is able to:

- Communicate clearly and consistently with colleagues, service users and their families.
- Communicate appropriately and effectively with the multidisciplinary team
- Document care provided accurately and concisely

ASSESSMENT OF ESSENTIAL ANTENATAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

ALL ESSENTIAL SKILLS MUST BE COMPLETED/SIGNED BY END OF THE PRACTICE PLACEMENT

ESSENTIAL SKILLS	Student Self -assessment Date & Sign	Midwife Date & Sign
Demonstrate accurate calculation of: - Estimated Date of Delivery (EDD) using Naegles's Rule - Gestational Age using pregnancy wheel		
Demonstrate calculation of the Body Mass Index (BMI):		
Perform and record Maternal Vital Signs: - Temperature - Pulse - Blood Pressure – Manual and Electronic - Respirations - Oxygen saturations - Document accurately and report appropriately any deviations from the normal		
Perform and record Urinalysis: - Advises the woman on how to collect the urine sample - Performs urinalysis - Dipstick - Document accurately and report appropriately any deviations from the normal		
Participates in performing Abdominal Examinations to include: - Estimation of gestational age - Assessment of fetal size and growth (using tape measure) - Identification of lie, presentation, position and degree of engagement - Auscultation of fetal heart rate using Pinard and handheld doppler		
Demonstrates knowledge of normal and reports appropriately: - Fetal movement pattern - Fetal Heart Rate		

Record of Placement Experience

Placement Area:	
Name of Preceptor/Co-Preceptor:	
Orientated to the clinical area: Yes ☐ No ☐	
The student has had exposure to, and participated in the provision of care under direct supervision: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Essential Skills List completed: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Student self-assessment of clinical learning: 	
Preceptor/Co-Preceptor comments on student's progress: 	
Registered Midwife Sign and Print Name:	Date:
Midwifery Student Sign and Print Name:	Date:

Feedback from other midwives, comment on key areas of progress and identify areas for development from the Learning Outcomes Principles, and Essential Skills. Please date, sign and print name for each entry.

Signature:	Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	Print Name:	Date:

RECORD OF TEACHING/REFLECTION/DISCUSSION SESSIONS ATTENDED

Please give details of any teaching or discussion sessions attended whilst on practice placement.

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Labour and Birth

Name of Practice Placement - Unit/Ward:
Number of weeks in this Practice Placement:
Placement Dates:
Name of Preceptor:
Name of Co-Preceptor:
Name of Clinical Co-ordinator:

Clinical Learning Outcomes

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Midwife Registration Programme Standards and Requirements (2022) states that: appropriate support and supervision and clearly defined learning outcomes should be provided for the student in practice placements.

Principle 1: Respect for the dignity of the person. The student:

- Respects all people – service users equally without discriminating on the grounds of age, gender, race, religion, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, disability (physical, mental or intellectual) or membership of the Traveller community
- Has respect for the service users' rights and choices
- Shows respect, kindness, compassion towards the service user and their families

Principle 2: Professional responsibility and accountability. The student is able to:

- Promote the level of professionalism expected of a student midwife in relation to punctuality, personal presentation and attitude, in accordance with clinical practice placements and university policies
- Work within the scope of practice for a student midwife and recognises their own level of knowledge, skills and professional behaviours
- Consistently make efforts to engage in their learning to enhance safe, competent, kind, compassionate and respectful professional care which is informed by the best available evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to listen, seek clarification and carry out instructions safely

Principle 3: Quality of practice. The student is able to:

- Participate with the midwife in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care of women and their babies.
- Participate with the midwife in the assessment of maternal and fetal wellbeing including accurate monitoring and reporting of vital signs.
- Comply with standard universal infection prevention and control measures
- Participate with the midwife in the safe management of drug administration, monitoring effects and documenting appropriately in accordance with NMBI medication administration guidance
- Participate with the midwife in reflecting on their own practice and can begin to identify their own learning needs.
- Demonstrate a willingness to learn from women, preceptors, midwives and colleagues

Principle 4: Trust and confidentiality. The student:

- Demonstrates honesty and trustworthiness
- Respects the service users right to privacy and confidentiality

Principle 5: Collaboration with others. The student is able to:

- Demonstrate that they can communicate clearly and consistently with colleagues, service users and their families.
- Communicate appropriately and effectively with the multidisciplinary team
- Document care provided accurately and concisely

ASSESSMENT OF ESSENTIAL LABOUR AND BIRTH SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

ALL SKILLS MUST BE COMPLETED/SIGNED BY END OF THE PRACTICE PLACEMENT

ESSENTIAL SKILL	Student Self -assessment Date & Sign	Midwife Date & Sign
Participates in review of maternal history: • Past Medical/Surgical/Mental Health/Social and Family history • Previous & current Obstetric/Midwifery Records • Menstrual history (LMP/EDD by ultrasound scan) • Antenatal history (including ultrasound scans)		
Participates in assessment of maternal wellbeing including: • Temperature • Pulse • Blood Pressure – Manual ☐ Electronic ☐ • Respirations • Oxygen saturations (where indicated) • Urinalysis • Document accurately and report appropriately any deviations from the normal		
Participates in performing abdominal examinations to include: • Symphysis fundal height measurement to assess growth (using a tape measure) • Identification of lie, presentation, position and degree of engagement • Assessment of uterine contractions for frequency, strength and duration		
Participates in performing assessment of fetal wellbeing: • Determines history of fetal movement pattern • Assessment of liquor/amniotic fluid • Auscultation of the Fetal Heart Rate using: Pinard stethoscope ☐ Handheld Doppler ☐ • Can correctly apply a cardiotocograph (CTG) if indicated and can identify the features of a normal CTG (baseline rate, variability, accelerations and decelerations) • Document accurately and report appropriately any deviations from the normal		

ESSENTIAL SKILL	Student Self -assessment Date & Sign	Midwife Date & Sign
Participates in ensuring maternal comfort needs are met, i.e.: • Bladder care (including urinary catheterisation (if required)) • Appropriate hydration and nutritional intake • Hygiene requirements		
Participates in care of a woman using non-pharmacological and pharmacological methods of pain relief		
Participates in enhancing the physical birthing environment to meet the needs of women, such as lighting, furniture, temperature		
Participates in preparing necessary equipment for birth: • Birthing environment • Birthing Trolley • Neonatal Resuscitaire		
Participates in the care of women during the third stage of labour Participates in the examination and safe disposal of placenta and membranes		
Participates in assessing the wellbeing of the newborn following birth by observing: • Colour • Tone • Heart Rate • Breathing • Response to stimuli		
Participates and assists in the initiation of newborn feeding following birth • Supports women in having skin-to-skin contact with their baby in a safe and unhurried environment • Participates in assisting women with position and attachment of her newborn at the breast for breastfeeding		
Participates in the correct identification of the baby: • Apply safe and secure Identification bands • Apply electronic security tag safely and securely		

Record of Placement Experience

Placement Area:	
Name of Preceptor/Co-Preceptor:	
Orientated to the clinical area: Yes ☐ No ☐	
The student has had exposure to, and participated in the provision of care under direct supervision: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Essential Skills List completed: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Student self-assessment of clinical learning: 	
Preceptor/Co-Preceptor comments on student's progress: 	
Registered Midwife Sign and Print Name:	Date:
Midwifery Student Sign and Print Name:	Date:

Feedback from other midwives, comment on key areas of progress and identify areas for development from the Learning Outcomes Principles, and Essential Skills. Please date, sign and print name for each entry.

Signature:	Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	Print Name:	Date:

RECORD OF TEACHING/REFLECTION/DISCUSSION SESSIONS ATTENDED

Please give details of any teaching or discussion sessions attended whilst on practice placement.

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I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Postnatal

Name of Practice Placement - Unit/Ward:
Number of weeks in this Practice Placement:
Placement Dates:
Name of Preceptor:
Name of Co-Preceptor:
Name of Clinical Co-ordinator:

Clinical Learning Outcomes

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) Midwife Registration Programme Standards and Requirements (2022) states that: appropriate support and supervision and clearly defined learning outcomes should be provided for the student in practice placements.

Principle 1: Respect for the dignity of the person. The student:

- Respects all people – service users equally without discriminating on the grounds of age, gender, race, religion, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, disability (physical, mental or intellectual) or membership of the Traveller community
- Demonstrates respect for the service users' rights and choices
- Shows respect, kindness, compassion towards the service user and their families

Principle 2: Professional responsibility and accountability. The student is able to:

- Promote the level of professionalism expected of a student midwife in relation to punctuality, personal presentation and attitude, in accordance with clinical practice placements and university policies
- Work within the scope of practice for a student midwife and recognises their own level of knowledge, skills and professional behaviours
- Consistently make efforts to engage in their learning to enhance safe, competent, kind, compassionate and respectful professional care which is informed by the best available evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to listen, seek clarification and carry out instructions safely

Principle 3: Quality of practice. The student is able to:

- Participate with the midwife in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care of women and their babies.
- Participate with the midwife in the assessment of maternal and fetal wellbeing including accurate monitoring and reporting of vital signs.
- Comply with standard universal infection prevention and control measures
- Participate with the midwife in the safe management of drug administration, monitoring effects and documenting appropriately in accordance with NMBI medication administration guidance
- Participate with the midwife in reflecting on their own practice and can begin to identify their own learning needs.
- Demonstrate a willingness to learn from women, preceptors, midwives and colleagues

Principle 4: Trust and confidentiality. The student:

- Demonstrates honesty and trustworthiness
- Respects the service users right to privacy and confidentiality

Principle 5: Collaboration with others. The student is able to:

- Communicate clearly and consistently with colleagues, service users and their families.
- Communicate appropriately and effectively with the multidisciplinary team
- Document care provided accurately and concisely

ASSESSMENT OF ESSENTIAL POSTNATAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

ALL ESSENTIAL SKILLS MUST BE COMPLETED/SIGNED BY END OF THE PRACTICE PLACEMENT

ESSENTIAL SKILL	Student Self -assessment Date & Sign	Midwife Date & Sign
Maternal History Review: • Past Medical/Surgical/Mental Health/Social and Family history • Previous Obstetric/Midwifery - Records/Antenatal/Labour		
Perform and record Maternal Vital Signs: • Temperature • Pulse • Blood Pressure – Manual ☐ and Electronic ☐ • Respirations • Oxygen saturations (where indicated) • Record vital signs on IMEWS accurately and report appropriately any deviations from normal		
Assist in performing the full physical postnatal assessment on the woman: • Breasts • Uterus - Fundal height, tone and position • Vaginal loss - blood loss/ colour/amount/odour • Bladder – Passed urine • Bowel care – Ask questions re bowel habits • Legs – Observe for any oedema/ varicose veins / signs DVT • Wound – Caesarean section • Perineum – Intact/type of trauma/Episiotomy		
Participate in ensuring maternal comfort needs are met, i.e.: • Appropriate hydration/ nutritional intake • Hygiene requirements • Assessment of pain		

ESSENTIAL SKILL	Student Self -assessment Date & Sign	Midwife Date & Sign
Participates in performing the newborn admission to the ward: • Review antenatal/labour history and Apgar scores • Check ID bands and security bands • Cord clamp secure		
Participates in the daily examination and ongoing assessment of the newborn: • Physical examination: ○ Temperature – axilla ○ Heart rate (with stethoscope) ○ Respirations ○ Colour • Neurological examination: ○ Reflexes present (palmar grasp, sucking, rooting) ○ Tone ○ Appropriate feeding pattern ○ Sleep pattern • Elimination: Passed meconium/urine		

Participates in newborn care skills: • Eye care • Umbilical cord care • Newborn skin care • Nappy changing • Baby bathing		
Participates and assists in the initiation of newborn feeding • Supports women in having skin-to-skin contact with their baby in a safe and unhurried environment • Participates in care that supports women to keep their babies close to be able to respond to their feeding cues. • Participates in assisting women with position and attachment of her newborn at the breast for breastfeeding • Participates in showing a woman how to hand express breast milk		
Participates in explaining and discussing to a woman and her partner how to sterilise equipment and make up a formula feed safely		

Record of Placement Experience

Placement Area:	
Name of Preceptor/Co-Preceptor:	
Orientated to the clinical area: Yes ☐ No ☐	
The student has had exposure to, and participated in the provision of care under direct supervision: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Essential Skills List completed: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Student self-assessment of clinical learning: 	
Preceptor/Co-Preceptor comments on student's progress: 	
Registered Midwife Sign and Print Name:	Date:
Midwifery Student Sign and Print Name:	Date:

Feedback from other midwives, comment on key areas of progress and identify areas for development from the Learning Outcomes Principles, and Essential Skills. Please date, sign and print name for each entry.

Signature:	Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	Print Name:	Date:
Signature:	Print Name:	Date:

RECORD OF TEACHING/REFLECTION/DISCUSSION SESSIONS ATTENDED

Please give details of any teaching or discussion sessions attended whilst on practice placement.

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

Teaching/Reflection/Discussion Session Title/Topic:	Given By:
I confirm that I have attended the above Teaching/Reflection/Discussion session: Signature of Student Midwife:	Date:

MCAT SUMMARY SHEET – PROGRESS REVIEW
To be completed by the Personal Tutor in the University

Full Student Name:		
Student College ID Number:		
Antenatal Module Code: Pass ☐ Fail ☐ Clinical Time complete: Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'No' hours outstanding:	Labour and Birth Module Code: Pass ☐ Fail ☐ Clinical Time complete: Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'No' hours outstanding:	Postnatal Module Code: Pass ☐ Fail ☐ Clinical Time complete: Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'No' hours outstanding:
Clinical Record Book Reviewed: Yes ☐ No ☐ Comments:	Overall Clinical Time Complete: Yes ☐ No ☐ If 'No' hours outstanding:	Personal Tutor Print Name: Personal Tutor Signature: Date:

References

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2020) *Guidance for Registered Nurses and Midwives on Medication Administration*, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, Dublin.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) *Midwife Registration Programme Standards and Requirements* (5th ed.), Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, Dublin.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) *Midwife Registration Education Post-RGN Programme Standards and Requirements*, Fifth Edition, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, Dublin.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) *Practice Standards for Midwives*. Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, Dublin.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2025) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives*, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, Dublin.

Notes