



Cayman Islands
Nursing and Midwifery Council
REGISTERED MIDWIFE

Scope of Practice

REGISTERED MIDWIFE

A midwife is a person who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is based on the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice and the framework of the ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education and is recognized in the country where it is located; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title 'midwife'; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery (ICM, 2017).

DEFINITION OF MIDWIFERY

Midwifery is the profession of midwives, only midwives practice midwifery. It has a unique body of knowledge, skills and professional attitudes drawn from disciplines shared by other health professions such as science and sociology, but practiced by midwives within a professional framework of autonomy, partnership, ethics and accountability (ICM, 2017).

ROLE

The midwife has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for the woman, but also within the family and the community. This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and childcare (ICM, 2017).

EDUCATION

A Midwife should have successfully completed a midwifery qualification, post registration practice in midwifery and post registration midwifery education in one of the seven jurisdictions recognized in the Health Practice Law (2017 Revision); with current or past registration as a midwife with a Midwifery registration authority in the same country of registration as where that midwife's initial qualification was completed, and current

registration and license to practice in one of the of the seven jurisdictions in the Health Practice Law.

All RM's must maintain current education in their area of practice and stay up to date and clinically competent. The required continuing education hours established by the NMC for the renewal of practicing licenses are set at a minimum.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Midwife is recognized as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labor and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife's own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant. This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures (ICM, 2017).

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- A midwife works in partnership with women on her own professional responsibility, to give women the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period up to six weeks, to facilitate births and to provide care for the newborn (Midwifery Council of New Zealand, 2010).
- A midwife understands, promotes and facilitates the physiological processes of pregnancy and childbirth, identifies complications that may arise in mother and baby, accesses appropriate medical assistance and implements emergency measures as necessary. When women require referral, a midwife provides midwifery care in collaboration with other health professionals (Midwifery Council of New Zealand, 2010).
- A midwife has an important role in health and wellness promotion and education for the woman, her family and the community. Midwifery practice involves informing and preparing the woman and her family for pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding and parenthood, and includes certain aspects of women's health, family planning and infant well-being (Midwifery Council of New Zealand, 2010).
- A midwife may practice in any setting, including the home, the community, hospitals or in any other maternity service. In all settings, a midwife remains responsible and accountable for the care she provides (Midwifery Council of New Zealand, 2010).

References

International Confederation of Midwives. (2017). <https://www.internationalmidwives.org/our-work/policy-and-practice/>

Midwifery Council of New Zealand. (2010).

<https://www.midwiferycouncil.health.nz/midwives/midwifery-scope-practice>