University Hospital Waterford
Labour Ward

Learning Opportunities

Whilst on placement in the labour ward midwifery students will be given the opportunity to do the following at the appropriate level of learning:

- Admit women to labour ward
- Assess plan and implement the holistic care of a woman in labour including monitoring and recording vital observations as per IMEWS policy, taking history on admission and abdominal examinations
- Work in partnership with women providing information and facilitating informed decision making and choice
- Communicate with women, their partners and the multidisciplinary team
- Assess and monitor fetal wellbeing using pinard/ sonicaid/CTG
- Participate in the interpretation of a CTG
- Support women to use different positions in labour
- Support the emotional, psychological and physical needs of women during labour
- Participate in the assessment, monitoring and administration of medication and appreciate the role of the midwife in medication management within the Scope of Practice
- Assess and monitor progress in labour
- Discuss with women their pain relief options and care for them accordingly
- Support women in physiological births
- Assist with fetal blood sampling and use of blood gas analyser
- Appreciate the role of the midwife in the management of physiological and active third stage of labour
- Recognise deviations from normal, emergency and high risk situations and provide appropriate care
- Refer and liaise with multidisciplinary team
- Undertake an initial examination of the newborn and apply identification tagging and security tagging to the newborn
- Participate in the resuscitation of the newborn and understand procedure for transferring babies to NNU
- Promote skin to skin contact and initiate infant feeding

Let’s not forget the domains of competence
They represent the functions of a registered midwife

1. Professional /Ethical practice
2. Holistic Midwifery Practice
3. Interpersonal relationships
4. Organisational and co-ordination of midwifery care
5. Personal and professional development

- Assess the woman’s wellbeing immediately after birth
- Care for a woman and family experiencing bereavement and loss
- Attend ward skills and drills sessions and ward meetings
- Document care provided under supervision using appropriate tools such as ISBAR
- Transfer a woman and baby to the postnatal ward

Year 1 BSc Midwifery
Observer Participant

Please assess midwifery students recognising that:
- She/he is a novice to midwifery
- Will require exposure to all aspects of midwifery care
- Will be expected to participate in all aspects of care
- Will be able to discuss basic concepts of care
- Will need continuous prompting and considerable direction

Year 2 BSc Midwifery
Novice Participant

Please assess midwifery students recognising that:
- She/he will have had some exposure and participation in the provision of care
- She/he will still need assistance and direct supervision
- She/he may require frequent prompting
- She/he should begin to identify his/her learning needs

Year 3 BSc Midwifery
Supervised practitioner

Please assess midwifery students recognising that:
- She/he can identify the needs of women and their families
- Can begin to adopt a problem solving approach to care
- Actively participate in the care of women and babies
- Provide rationale for his/her actions
- Please understand it might be difficult for the midwifery student to prioritise care, but should demonstrate the awareness of the need for best practice and can identify their own learning needs

Year 4 BSc Midwifery
Competent practitioner

Please assess midwifery students recognising that:
- She/he can apply a systematic approach to care
- Can demonstrate evidence based practice and critical thinking
- Is capable of supporting and monitoring women, families and junior colleagues
- She/he possesses many attributes including- practical and technical skills, communication and interpersonal skills, organizational and managerial skills
- Has the ability to perform as part of the health care team
- Demonstrates a professional attitude, accepting responsibility for their own practice.

To learn and demonstrate learning a student might...

Observe...
Participate...
Outline...
Explain...
Identify...
Evaluate...
Analyse...


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