

University Maternity Hospital



Neonatal Unit Learning Opportunities

Whilst on placement in the neonatal unit midwifery students will be given the opportunity to do the following:

- Assist with the admission, transfer and discharge of a baby
- Participate in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care provided to baby
- Communicate with and support parents in the care of their baby
- Perform a detailed examination of baby including; observations (temperature, heart rate, respirations)
- Observe the care of a baby in an incubator (low birth weight/ preterm/ critically ill infant)
- Observe the midwife/ nurse caring for a baby on assisted ventilation
- Care for a baby receiving phototherapy
- Observe ultrasound scans being performed
- Participate and support mothers in the skills to initiate and support breastfeeding
- Support mothers who formula feed their babies
- Insert a naso-gastric tube and perform naso-gastric tube feeding
- Participate in the assessment, monitoring and administration of medication and appreciate the role of the nurse/ midwife in medication management within the Scope of Practice
- Participate in the care of a baby receiving IV fluids
- Learn how to calculate baby's fluid requirements with the midwife/ nurse
- Participate in neonatal screening procedures
- Care for a baby with congenital anomaly and support the family
- Participate in the care of parents who are bereaved
- Observe the resuscitation of a baby
- Accompany the CMM/ midwife/nurse on ward rounds and multidisciplinary grand rounds
- Attend multidisciplinary meetings e.g case review meetings, perinatal mortality and morbidity meetings
- Document care provided under supervision

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

To learn and demonstrate learning a student might...

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

Developed by MPDU, reviewed 2007,2009, 2011 2014

The Neonatal Unit is a specialist placement providing unique learning opportunities. Students will need assistance and direct supervision to maximise these learning opportunities.