

# **Scope of Practice for Midwives in Nepal**



## **Nepal Nursing Council**

Bansbari, Kathmandu, Nepal

GPO Box: 12541

Tel: 01-4372521

Fax No.: +01-4377214

Email: [info@nnc.org.np](mailto:info@nnc.org.np)

Webpage: <http://www.nnc.org.np>

**2019 (2076)**



# **Scope of Practice for Midwives in Nepal**



## **Nepal Nursing Council**

Bansbari, Kathmandu, Nepal

Post Box No. 12541

Tel: 01-4372521, Fax: 01-4377214

Email: [info@nnc.org.np](mailto:info@nnc.org.np)

Web: <http://www.nnc.org.np>

**2019**

## **Nepal Nursing Council (NNC)**

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form by any means without the prior written permission of Nepal Nursing Council.

Published by

### **Nepal Nursing Council**

Kathmandu, Nepal

GPO Box: 12541

Phone : 4372521

Fax: 4377214

E-mail: [nncouncil@wlink.com.np](mailto:nncouncil@wlink.com.np); [info@nnc.org.np](mailto:info@nnc.org.np)

Website: <http://www.nnc.org.np>

Price: NRs 500.00

### **Printed**

Suraj Printing Press

Kathmandu

# Preface

Nepal Nursing Council (NNC) is a regulatory body for maintaining the standards and quality of nursing and midwifery education and service. NNC Act paves the path to regulate nursing and midwifery professions. Midwifery is regulated by professional legislation which defines, describes and sets criteria for professional practice. As a profession, midwifery has the privilege of self-regulation. This means that certain responsibilities for regulation are granted to professional body by the legislation.

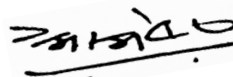
Scope of practice for midwives (SOPM) has been developed as per the felt need of the national midwives. This provides guidance to all registered midwives in determining their roles and responsibilities in relation to the provision of safe, quality maternal and child health care is enacted in accordance to the power conferred by the (f) of sub-section (1) of section 9 of the Nepal Nursing Council Act, 2052 (1996) on the year 2020 ( 2077).

The Scope of practice for midwives has undergone considerable changes through workshop and meetings. Therefore, we hope this will facilitate the midwives effective provision of safe competent, kind and compassionate care which is informed by the best available evidence, the midwife's own expertise, and the experiences, preferences and values of the woman.

We congratulate the team working who have conscientiously devoted the time in the finalization of this scope of practice. We appreciate their sense of dedication and contribution in this document is highly commendable. Similarly, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to UNFPA Nepal for the technical support provided to develop scope of practice for the PCL/ Bachelor level midwives in Nepal.



Assoc. Prof. Binda Ghimire  
**Registrar**  
Nepal Nursing Council



Prof. Goma Devi Niraula  
**President**  
Nepal Nursing Council



# Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Definition of the Scope of Midwifery Practice	3
Levels of Midwives in Nepal	5
General Scope for Midwives	6
Midwives	8
General midwives' scope of practice	9
Glossary of Terms	19
Reference	20





# Introduction

Midwifery is regulated by professional legislation which defines, describes and sets criteria for professional practice. As a profession, midwifery has the privilege of self-regulation. This means that certain responsibilities for regulation are granted to professional body by the legislation.

‘Scope of practice’ is a concept that several professions use in the context of professional regulation. The scope of practice sets out the procedures, actions and processes that the registered or licensed professional is allowed to perform. The individual practitioner’s scope of practice is determined by a range of factors that gives them the authority to perform a particular role or task. Scope of practice for midwives in Nepal is determined by legislation, international developments, social policy, national and local guidelines, education and the individual practitioner’s levels of competence. The purpose of the Scope of Midwifery Practice Framework (the Framework) is to provide midwives with professional guidance and support on matters relating to the scope of their clinical practice.

Midwifery profession has a social mandate to provide distinctive services. Therefore, it is appropriate that midwifery practice should respond to the ever-changing needs of the population and the health service. Midwives are, therefore, required to be proactive in identifying areas where an expansion in their scope of practice would lead to improvements in health consumers’ outcomes and in the quality and range of available services (MoHP, 2019).

This Framework provides guidance to all registered midwives in determining their roles and responsibilities in relation to the provision of safe, quality patient care. It encourages midwives to critically examine their scope of practice and expand it, where appropriate. The Framework fulfils several functions in that it:

- acts as a framework to underpin decision-making related to midwives’ everyday practice;

- helps midwives to identify professional development needs;
- provides a basis for the expansion of midwifery roles; and
- Encourages reflective practice to improve learning and the provision of safe, quality care.

As an enabling framework, it also emphasises midwives' individual accountability in making decisions about their roles and responsibilities and is, therefore, an empowering resource for practitioners. Decisions about a midwife's scope of practice are complex. A number of important determining factors need to be considered. These include:

- Core definitions and values that underpin midwifery practice,
- Levels of competence,
- Channels of responsibility and accountability, and
- Supports and resources available.

Every midwife is responsible and accountable for making decisions about their own scope of practice. Factors such as the practice setting and collaborative practice can influence a midwife's scope of practice, and have been considered in this Framework. The Framework document provides a definition of the scope of midwifery practice and outlines values that should underpin practice.

The Framework also discusses key factors that midwives need to consider when making decisions about their own scope of practice. The document further outlines the principles that should guide midwives in reviewing and expanding their scope of practice. For guidance, it has included in this document a flowchart of the decision-making process together with relevant references and resources that may be used to direct and guide professional practice.

The Framework should be read in conjunction with the latest version of the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Midwives and other guidance and standards documents published by the NNC.

## **Definition of the Scope of Midwifery Practice**

The English word ‘midwife’ means ‘with woman’.

A registered midwife is a person who:

“has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is based on the essential competencies for basic midwifery practice and the framework of the 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).”

The scope of midwifery practice is the expected range of roles, functions, responsibilities and activities that a midwife registered with the NNC is educated for and is competent and authorised to perform. More specifically, the scope of midwifery practice is identified in the National Policy on Skilled Birth Attendants (2006), Minimum Service Standard (2018), Reproductive Health Protocol (revised draft 2019), and Minimum Requirements for the Proficiency Certificate Level and Bachelor of Midwifery Programme. According to these midwives are able to gain access and pursue at least the following activities:

1. Provide sound family planning information and advice;
2. Diagnose and monitor normal pregnancies; carrying out the examinations necessary to do this;
3. Prescribe or advise on necessary examinations for the earliest possible diagnosis of pregnancies at risk;
4. Provide parenthood preparation programmes on childbirth, hygiene and nutrition;
5. Care for and help the mother during labour and monitor the condition of the fetus using appropriate clinical and technical means;
6. Assist for physiological births, including, where required, episiotomies, and in urgent cases breech births, vacuum

delivery; recognise the warning signs of abnormality in the mother or baby's condition which need to be referred to a doctor. The midwife should also take the necessary emergency measures in the doctor's absence, in particular the manual removal of the placenta, possibly followed by manual examination of the uterus;

7. Examine and care for the newborn and take all initiatives that are needed, including resuscitation, if necessary;
8. Care for and monitor the progress of the mother in the postnatal period and advise her on newborn care so that the baby makes the best possible progress;
9. Carry out the treatment prescribed by doctors;
10. Draw up the necessary written reports”.

Midwifery practice is underpinned by values that guide the way in which midwives provide care. The Nepal Nursing Council considers that the following values should underpin midwifery practice and provide the basis for the formulation of a philosophy of midwifery. These values are also shared with the International Confederation of Midwives.

1. Having a baby is a profound experience, which carries intense meaning to the woman, her baby, her family and the community.
2. The woman is the primary decision-maker in her care and she has the right to information that helps her to make decisions.
3. Birth is a normal physiological process.
4. Midwives are the most appropriate care providers to attend women during pregnancy, labour, birth and the post-natal period and in collaboration with other health care professionals when required.
5. Midwives respect all people equally without discriminating on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, disability (physical, mental or

intellectual), or membership of the Traveller community.

6. Midwives value empowerment of women to assume responsibility for their health and for the health of their families.
7. Midwifery care combines art and science. Midwifery care is holistic in nature, grounded in an understanding of the social, emotional, cultural, spiritual, psychological and physical experiences of women, and is based upon the best available research and experiential evidence.
8. Midwives have confidence and trust in, and respect for women and their capabilities in childbirth.
9. Midwifery practice must always be based on the principles of professional conduct as stated in the Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurse and Registered Midwives (NNC 2018).

An individual midwife's scope of practice is dynamic – that is, it will change and grow as they progress in their career. The scope of practice of the individual midwife is influenced by a number of factors including:

- The midwife's educational preparation, experience and competence;
- Local, national and international guidelines, policies and evidence base;
- The practice setting;
- Collaborative practice; and
- Other factors, such as the woman and baby's safety, their needs and care outcomes.

## **Levels of Midwives in Nepal**

1. Certificate Level in Midwifery: This level is for the midwife who functions at the operational level under the supervision (direct or indirect) of the midwife officer. She/he is prepared and authorized at certificate level to provide midwifery care to the individual, family, groups and the community.

2. Bachelor Level in Midwifery Sciences (BMS or equivalent qualification): This level is for the certificate level registered nurse to be prepared as a professional midwife at the degree level as a Clinical Practitioner, Midwife Educator, Supervisor, Advocate, Counsellor or Researcher. He/she is capable of providing leadership and management in midwifery in general. Having been prepared in a programme which has more in-depth scientific knowledge, the BMS should be in a position to apply critical thinking in the process of solving individual, family, groups and the community health needs of childbearing women.

## **General Scope for Midwives**

The purpose of this document is to increase understanding of the scope of practice for the regulated midwifery profession in Nepal by their level of academic and professional qualifications, including certificate, bachelor or equivalent qualification as well as advanced practitioner. Midwives have to be prepared to think critically and act promptly with a caring mind, sound knowledge and competency in clinical and social skills.

The Nepal Nursing Council Act (revised 2002) defines a midwife as a “person having obtained degree, diploma or certificate in midwifery from an educational institute recognized pursuant to NNC Act.” The midwifery context refers to the basic educational preparation, competence and experience of the midwife. Midwives are prepared to meet the entry level competences of their respective profession.

Educated, trained, licensed, and regulated midwives can provide the full scope of midwifery as defined in this Scope of practice of midwives. Although multiple providers are actively involved in providing midwifery care, but with limited benefits where reliance is solely on less skilled health-care workers has been found. Care led by midwives—educated, licensed, regulated, integrated in the health system and working in interdisciplinary teams—had a positive impact on maternal and perinatal health across the multiple stages of the framework,

even when compared with care led by other health professionals in combination with midwives. Evidence suggests that midwife-led maternity care is a more cost-effective option than medically-led care (The Lancet 2014). When midwives work in collaboration as part of multidisciplinary teams providing integrated care across community and hospital settings, they can also provide effective midwifery care for women and infants who develop complications.

Midwifery is an art and science which aims at professional excellence in providing holistic, comprehensive and culturally sensitive care. It embraces responsibility, accountability, leadership, management, involvement in policy formulation, continuing enhancement of competence and ethical behaviour in order to ensure provision of sustainable quality midwifery care. The practice involves participation in research to generate new knowledge and utilize it for the improvement of client/patient midwifery care. Midwifery is carried out in collaboration with clients/patients and other health care partners. Available evidence indicates that improving maternal care through skilled attendance in addition to provision of family planning, timely access to Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) and Focused Antenatal Care (FANC) are critical strategies towards averting maternal and neonatal deaths and achieving sustainable development goal targets.

Midwives are a key health workforce for the achievement of sustainable development goal targets 3.1 (reduce maternal mortality) and 3.2 (reduce neonatal mortality). In response to this, the country has put in place midwifery training programmes of three-year duration and academic recognitions (certificate and bachelor) that require an auxiliary nurse-midwife training, and proficiency certificate level nursing training that designates the person as a midwife upon successful completion. The regulated midwifery nursing profession in Nepal will include licensed Registered Midwife (PCL RM) and Registered Midwife (BMS RM). RMs may be certificate, bachelor's degree and advanced degree holders. For the purposes of this document the term "midwives" is used to denote both groups.

## Midwives

The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) recommends strengthening midwifery worldwide by preparing fully qualified midwives to provide high-quality, evidence-based health services for women, newborns, and childbearing families. Skilled midwife attendance at birth is considered to be the single most critical intervention for ensuring safe motherhood, because it hastens the timely delivery of EmONC when life-threatening complications arise.

During pregnancy, childbirth, and throughout their lifetime, women require care that is not only safe but that also meets their individual psychosocial, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual needs. The practice of midwifery therefore needs to focus on meeting the holistic needs of the woman in a sensitive and competent manner, acting as her advocate and working in partnership with her and her family to promote a safe and satisfying experience of childbirth and motherhood. The 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, midwives provide midwifery care in collaboration with other health professionals.

Midwives have 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 women's health, family planning, HIV/AIDS (PMTCT+) and infant well-being.

The midwife may practice in any setting, including the home, the community, hospitals, or in any other maternity service. In all settings, the midwife remains responsible and accountable for the care she provides. The legal authority for midwives' scope of practice has been developed in consistent with the international and national definition of midwife, and the essential competencies for basic midwifery practice in accordance with the National Policy on Skilled Birth Attendants (2006), National Health Policy (2014), Minimum Service Standard (2018), National Public Health Act (2018), and Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act 2019.



## **General midwives' scope of practice**

1. Apply ethical principles throughout pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, labour, delivery and postpartum period.
2. Demonstrate communication, interpersonal and client-midwife interaction skills.
3. Provide culturally sensitive midwifery care.
4. Apply critical thinking and decision-making skills in care and delivery.
5. Provide health promotion and education on maternal and newborn danger signs and birth preparedness package, postnatal care, early exclusive and extended breast feeding, immunization, family planning, nutrition, personal and environmental hygiene, non-communicable diseases (e.g., heart diseases, hypertension, diabetes, anemia) and communicable diseases (e.g., malaria, STI, HIV/AIDS, TB).
6. In the absence or shortage of a medical clinician, the midwife shall prescribe medicines, perform minor surgical procedures, and carry out other complex tasks requiring special knowledge (as per relevant protocols and according to the providers' knowledge, skill, and judgement).
7. Initiate PMTCT services for mothers and their newborns.
8. Conduct and utilize research findings to improve maternal, newborn and child health services.
9. Practice use of Health Management Information System (HMIS).
10. Apply measures used to prevent and control common communicable diseases.
11. Recognize danger signs during pregnancy, labour, postnatal and to the newborn baby/neonate.
12. Provide comprehensive postnatal care for women, newborns and families.
13. Refer complicated cases.

<b>Scope of practice for Midwives</b>	
<b>Registered Midwife (Certificate Level)</b>	<b>Registered Midwife (Bachelor Level)</b>
<b>Prepregnancy Andantenatal Period</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess nutritional status, current immunization status, health behaviors such as use of substances, existing medical conditions, and exposure to known teratogens</li> <li>• Carry out screening procedures for sexually transmitted and other infections, HIV, cervical cancer</li> <li>• Provide counseling about nutritional supplements such as iron and folic acid, dietary intake, exercise, updating immunizations as needed, modifying risk behaviours, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, family planning, and methods of contraception.</li> <li>• Diagnose and monitor normal pregnancies</li> <li>• Manage minor disorders in pregnancy</li> <li>• Provide Focused Antenatal Care (FANC) to the pregnant woman and family</li> <li>• Counsel for HIV/AIDS testing to all pregnant women and partners</li> </ul>	<p><b>In addition to scope at certificate level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct operational research that responds to the needs of midwives, pregnant women and their families</li> </ul>

- Provide PMTCT services to HIV positive pregnant women
- Identify risk factors during antenatal, provide initial management and/or refer
- Perform/order routine diagnostic tests required
- during pregnancy
- Collect, analyse and keep HMIS records
- Assess and address socio-cultural, economical and psychological status of clients/patients and community
- Diagnose, manage and monitor abnormal pregnancies and refer if needed
- Manage life threatening conditions during antenatal period and/or refer
- Interpret examination including laboratory findings, plan and implement modified care
- Analyse and synthesize data critically to identify gaps and areas for improvement
- Prescribe appropriate medicines as per protocols
- Administer prescribed drugs safely during pregnancy
- Identify innovative measures with pregnant woman and family that address socio-cultural, psychological and economic problems

## **L abour and Delivery (Intra-Natal Period)**

- Provide care for a woman in the birth setting of her choice, following policies and protocols
- Obtain relevant obstetric and medical history
- Perform and interpret focused physical examination of the woman and fetus
- Order and interpret laboratory tests if needed
- Assess woman's physical and behavioural responses to labour
- Provide information, support, and encouragement to woman and support persons throughout labour and birth
- Provide respectful one-to-one care
- Encourage freedom of movement and upright positions
- Provide nourishment and fluids
- Offer and support woman to use strategies for coping with labour pain,
- Assess regularly parameters of maternal-fetal status.
- Use labour progress graphic display to record findings and assist in detecting complications
- Minimize unnecessary routine interventions.

### **In addition to certificate level:**

- Conduct research from the service delivery areas to the community and ensure knowledge transfer for evidence-based practice

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify abnormal labour/childbirth and refer if needed</li> <li>• Identify obstetric emergencies during labour and childbirth and refer</li> <li>• Order and maintain stock to ensure the seven signal functions in basic emergency obstetric care are constantly available</li> <li>• Manage normal labour/childbirths and refer for complicated childbirths if needed</li> <li>• Manage obstetric emergencies and/or refer</li> <li>• Utilize the seven signal functions in basic emergency obstetric care</li> </ul>	
<b>Care of the Newborn</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the newborn and provide immediate care of newborn (breathing, warming, Kangaroo Mother Care)</li> <li>• Perform newborn resuscitation if needed</li> <li>• Initiate early exclusive breastfeeding</li> <li>• Manage newborn conditions and refer complicated cases</li> <li>• Examine infant at frequent intervals to monitor growth and developmental behavior</li> </ul>	<p><b>In addition to certificate level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze critically newborn conditions, manage and refer</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distinguish normal variation in newborn appearance and behaviour from those indicating pathologic conditions</li> <li>• Administer immunizations, carry out screening tests as indicated</li> <li>• Provide information to parents about a safe environment for infant, frequent feeding, care of umbilical cord, voiding and stooling, and close physical contact with mothers.</li> </ul>	
--	--

**Postpartum Period**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out a focused physical exam to assess breast changes and involution. Monitor blood loss and other body functions</li> <li>• Identify, manage and/or refer obstetric emergencies during postnatal period</li> <li>• Identify and manage danger signs of the mother and newborn during postnatal period</li> <li>• Advocate and educate the mother and families on danger signs</li> <li>• Provide information about safe sex, family planning methods appropriate for the immediate postnatal period, and pregnancy spacing</li> </ul>	<p><b>In addition to certificate level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision of subordinates during postnatal care</li> </ul>
--	---

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve community in the care of the mother and newborn</li> <li>• Provide information about self-care that enables mother to meet needs of newborn.</li> </ul>	
--	--

**Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide information to women about their sexual and reproductive health rights</li> <li>• Inform women about women’s rights and responsibilities</li> <li>• Provide information and support to individuals in complex situations where there are competing ethical principles and rights</li> <li>• Provide gender sensitive and adolescents and women’s friendly care in a life cycle approach</li> <li>• Educate and counsel adolescent and women on contraceptive methods</li> <li>• Screen, manage and/or refer girls and women with RH morbidities such as cervical cancer, breast cancer, pelvic organ prolapsed, etc according the national protocol and guidelines</li> <li>• Provide safe abortion service as per the guideline and protocol</li> <li>• Advocate for and support women to be the central decision makers in their care</li> </ul>	<p><b>In addition to certificate level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide supervision to ensure that practice is aligned with evidence-based clinical practice guidelines</li> <li>• Support the profession’s growth through participation in midwifery education in the roles of clinical preceptor, mentor, and role model</li> <li>• Discuss research findings with women and colleagues</li> <li>• Support research in midwifery by participating in the conduct of research</li> </ul>
---	--

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assist women to identify their needs, knowledge, skills, feelings, and preferences throughout the course of care</li><li>• Provide information and anticipatory guidance about sexual and reproductive health to assist women's decision making</li><li>• Collaborate with women in developing a comprehensive plan of care that respects her preferences and decisions</li><li>• Promote the expression of diverse opinions and perspectives</li><li>• Conduct a comprehensive assessment of sexual and reproductive health needs</li><li>• Assess risk factors and at-risk behaviour</li><li>• Order, perform, and interpret laboratory and/ or imaging screening tests</li><li>• Provide health information and advice tailored to individual circumstances of women and their families</li><li>• Include woman in decision-making about referral to other providers and services</li><li>• Collaborate with women to develop and implement a plan of care</li></ul> |  |
|---|--|



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain communication with women about nature of problem, actions taken, and referral if indicated</li> <li>• Provide support as required for survivors of gender-based violence including rape</li> <li>• Refer to community resources, assist in locating safe setting as needed</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Leadership and Management</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect confidentiality of oral information and written records about care of women</li> <li>• Maintain records of care in the manner required by the health authority</li> <li>• Comply with all local reporting regulations for birth and death registration</li> <li>• Recognize violations of laws, regulations, and ethical codes and take appropriate action</li> <li>• Report and document incidents and adverse outcomes as required while providing care</li> <li>• Demonstrate the use of essential equipment and supplies</li> <li>• Timely reporting of any deficit</li> <li>• Resolve minor conflicts among client /patient/staff</li> <li>• Ensure availability of all necessary equipment and supplies at work place</li> <li>• client /patient/staff</li> </ul>	<p><b>In addition to certificate level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in policy formulation</li> <li>• Prepare and present budget at senior management team</li> <li>• Teach and supervise students in midwifery schools</li> <li>• Utilize human and clinical care resources to provide personalized care for women and their infants</li> <li>• Promote policies and a work culture that values normal birth processes</li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure regular maintenance and repair of equipment</li><li>• Maintain inventories of essential equipment</li><li>• Supervise human (community health workers) and material resources</li><li>• Participate in budgeting for his/her unit</li><li>• Apply appropriate techniques in solving client/patient/staff conflicts</li><li>• Establish ethical and culturally-appropriate boundaries between professional and non-professional relationships</li><li>• Facilitate teamwork and inter-professional care with other care providers (including students) and community groups/ agencies</li><li>• Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with individuals, agencies, institutions that are part of referral networks</li><li>• Convey information accurately and clearly and respond to the needs of individuals</li><li>• Maintain up-to-date knowledge, life-saving skills, and equipment for responding to emergency situations</li></ul> |  |
|--|--|

# Glossary of Terms

**Accountable:** The nurse or midwife must be prepared to answer to others for their actions, decisions and advice legally or professionally. Accountability cannot be delegated.

**Autonomy:** Self-direction and independent decision-making in nursing and midwifery. **Competence:** The combination of knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and judgment required to safely perform the prescribed role at a standard acceptable to clients and others in the profession.

**Health-Illness Continuum:** Describes care needs of the individual and ranges from being fully independent to partially or fully dependent.

**Midwife:** A person who has successfully completed a prescribed education programme at certificate or degree level and is licensed by the NNC to practice as an enrolled or registered midwife.

**Responsibility:** A nurse or midwife has an obligation or duty to perform a role or function to an expected standard. Responsibility can be delegated to a person competent to carry out the activity.

**Task Sharing:** Task sharing refers to functions within the scope of any profession that may be shared with other professions, individuals or groups depending on the environment, context, qualifications and experience, organizational culture and health needs of the population

## Reference

1. Nepal Nursing Council (2006). Nepal Nursing Council Act 2006 (Revised), Kathmandu.
2. Nepal Nursing Council (2018). The Code of Conduct for Registered Nurses and Midwives in Nepal, Kathmandu.
3. Nepal Nursing Council (2018). Minimum Requirements for the Proficiency Certificate Level Midwifery Programme, Kathmandu.
4. Nepal Nursing Council (2016). Minimum Requirements of the Bachelor in Midwifery Programme, Kathmandu.
5. Government of Nepal 2018. Minimum Service Standards: Checklist to Identify the Gaps in Quality Improvement of Health Posts, Primary Hospitals with General Services and Specialized services, Secondary Hospitals and Tertiary Hospitals. Ministry of Health and Population, Kathmandu.
6. Family Welfare Division (2018). Final Draft Reproductive Health Protocol for Staff Nurse and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, Ministry of Health and Population, Kathmandu.
7. Government of Nepal (2006). National Policy on Skill Birth Attendants supplementary to Safe Motherhood Policy 1998, Family Health Division, Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Population, Kathmandu.
8. International Confederation of Midwives (2017). International Definition of the Midwife. Adopted at Toronto Council meeting, 2017. Retrieved from [https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/definitions-files/2018/06/eng-definition\\_of\\_the\\_midwife-2017.pdf](https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/definitions-files/2018/06/eng-definition_of_the_midwife-2017.pdf)
9. International Confederation of Midwives (2017). Definition of Midwifery. Adopted at Toronto Council meeting, 2017. Retrieved from [https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/definitions-files/2018/06/eng-definition\\_midwifery.pdf](https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/definitions-files/2018/06/eng-definition_midwifery.pdf)
10. International Confederation of Midwives (2017). International Code of Ethics for Midwives. Adopted at Toronto Council meeting, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.internationalmidwives.org/assets/files/definitions-files/2018/06/eng-international-code-of-ethics-for-midwives.pdf>
11. International Confederation of Midwives (2019). Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice. Retrieved from <https://www.internationalmidwives.org/our-work/policy-and-practice/essential-competencies-for-midwifery-practice.html>
12. The Lancet (2014). Midwifery: An Executive Summary for The Lancet's Series
13. Nursing and Midwifery Board Ireland (2015). Practice Standards for Midwives. Retrieved from <https://www.nmbi.ie/nmbi/media/NMBI/Publications/Practice-Standards-for-Midwives-2015.pdf?ext=.pdf>



