

PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE:

A Self Assessment Tool for Midwives

www.midwives.org.au

This inventory is a self-assessment tool to guide individual midwives in identifying their professional development needs.

It is not meant to used as an assessment tool or as a tool to measure competency.

CONTENTS

02	About the Midwife's Self Assessment Tool
04	A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience
15	B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care
37	C. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Labour and Birth
55	D. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for the Postnatal Period
66	E. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Reproductive Health and Sexuality

ABOUT THE MIDWIFE'S SELF ASSESSMENT TOOL

For many years there have been very few tools to assist midwives to identify their own specific professional development needs. The Australian College of Midwives developed this midwifery practice development selfassessment tool to address this gap.

The Midwife's Self Assessment Tool aims to help individual midwives to identify their own professional development needs in terms of the minimum skills, knowledge and experience required, especially to work in midwifery continuity of care.

Importantly, it is not meant to be used by managers or educators for performance appraisal or competency assessment. Rather it is a self assessment tool.

ISBN 978-1-925358-06-3

© 2019 Australian College of Midwives. All rights reserved. This material may not be freely reproduced or shared without express permission of the Australian College of Midwives.

How was this Self Assessment tool developed?

The Midwife's Self Assessment Tool is based on a concept that emerged from the Midwifery Development Unit in Glasgow, Scotland. It was initially developed in 2004 by a number of midwives working across Australia on the development of midwifery 'continuity of care' models. The tool thus takes a broad look at the span of skills, knowledge and experience that are required for a midwife to provide continuity of care to women in both community and hospital settings. This includes philosophical and psychosocial considerations.

Many midwives have contributed to the development of this resource. The Australian College of Midwives is indebted to Nicky Leap and the members of the Australian College of Midwives Education Standards Taskforce for their significant contributions to the first edition. Nicky Leap and Caroline Homer have led numerous changes and updates over the last 15 years culminating in this latest edition. This 2019 version is a more generic version in response to requests for the resource to be used by midwives moving into providing continuity of care in other countries. This version can be used by any individual midwife practising across the full role and scope of practice of the midwife as defined by the International Confederation of Midwives. We encourage adaptation for local contexts and request acknowledgement of the original source, the Australian College of Midwives (2019).

The Midwife's Self Assessment Tool has been used across Australia. Midwives practising in continuity of care models have found it a useful tool to identify their continuing professional development learning needs. As it is arranged in sections, midwives who are working in one specific area of practice can also use it effectively.

How do I use this tool?

You can use the tool to assess how 'confident' you are to practise according to the full role and scope of practice of the midwife. The headings are therefore 'I am confident in this area' or 'I will need to work on this' and 'Comments/Strategies'.

Each section ends with an action plan, which states: 'In order to be confident in these areas, I will...' You are also invited to record a timeframe by which you will endeavour to undertake the professional development activities that you have identified that you need.

At the end of each section there is a box for you to identify the skills and knowledge and experience that you might have to acquire for your specific context.

The idea of the self-assessment tool is you can reflect on your learning needs privately, and control who you show it to in order to address your own learning needs.

We hope you find this resource useful.

Australian College of Midwives, 2019

A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience I will need l am Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience confident to work in this area on this 1. Have knowledge of regulatory frameworks and requirements that govern my practice, including relevant standards, and codes COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 2. Understand the principles and challenges regarding 'woman centred care' COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:

A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience I will need l am Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience confident to work in this area on this 3. Understand the principles and challenges regarding 'cultural safety' COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 4. Recognise the needs of people from diverse and/or marginalised communities COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:

A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience I will need lam Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience confident to work in this area on this 5. Understand the principles and challenges regarding 'informed choice' COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 6. Understand primary health care principles and how these relate to addressing the social determinants of health and midwifery as a public health strategy COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to worl on this
Understand how midwifery can improve maternal and newborn health as identified in the Quality Maternal and Newborn Health Framework from the Lancet Series on Midwifery (Renfrew et al 2014) ¹ COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
Understand the guidelines for consultation and referral in my practice setting (eg: ACM Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral) ² COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience I will need lam Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience confident to work in this area on this 9. Have knowledge of adult education and group facilitation principles COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 10. Engage with the activities of my midwifery professional organisation - local and national (eg: ACM, RCM) and other childbirth related organisations COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:

lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to work on this
. Facilitate and assess the education needs of midwifery students COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		0
Engage with evaluation and safety and quality processes COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		0

A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	l will need to work on this
13. Engage in reflective practice with peers and others COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
14. Maintain a professional development portfolio including reflection on practice and identification of own needs for CPD COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience I will need lam Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience confident to work in this area on this 15. Have knowledge of how to access and critique evidence via online databases COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 16. Be able to assess psychological and social factors including appropriate responses and knowledge of referral resources COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:

A. General Skills, Knowledge and Experience		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will need to work on this
17. Have knowledge of how to document and record practice in contemporaneous, comprehensive, logical, legible, clear, concise and accurate notes COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
18. Engage with women, their families and others in situations involving grief, loss, and unexpected circumstances, with sensitivity and courage, and without making assumptions using relevant guidelines (eg: SANDS) COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to work on this
9. Understand the evidence and implications of the hormonal physiology of childbirth drawing on the online resource: Buckley, S.J. (2015). <i>Hormonal Physiology of Childbearing: Evidence and Implications for Women, Babies, and Maternity Care.</i> ³ COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		\bigcirc
D. Context specific skills knowledge and experience (fill in as relevant):		

PLAN OF ACTION

In order to enhance my confidence in this/these areas I will ...

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to wor on this
Be able to apply relevant local, national and international guidelines for antenatal care (eg Australian Pregnancy Care Guidelines ⁴ ; NICE antenatal care guidelines ⁵ ; WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience ⁶) COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
Undertake pregnancy testing, referral and discussion re: decisionmaking, including termination of pregnancy COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	0	

Engage women in a comprehensive history taking COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to worl in this area on this

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will need to work on this
5. Offer, explain and interpret all routine antenatal booking blood tests, investigations and ultrasound scans COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
6. Offer HIV and Hepatitis B & C testing and discuss implications of screening. Understand the principles of pre and post-test counselling COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	l will need to work on this
7. Understand indications for genetic screening, and able to discuss decision-making and disability issues COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
8. Undertake screening for domestic violence (as determined by local policy and national guidelines): ask direct questions, have knowledge of advice/referral/contact numbers COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	l will need to work on this
9. Undertake psychosocial assessment as determined by local policy: provide advice/ referral/contact numbers COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
10. Offer and explain non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT), nuchal translucency, CVS and amniocentesis tests when appropriate COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
11. Able to discuss and plan relevant vaccinations with women COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	010
12. Engage in discussion with women regarding promoting bladder health and pelvic floor function COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
13. Provide advice re: early pregnancy bleeding and miscarriage COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
14. Be able to discuss nutrition and lifestyle issues with women COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
15. Understand the pharmacological agents used during pregnancy COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
16. Have knowledge of environmental and biological hazards to pregnant women COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

Assist the woman and her family in planning and preparing for birth and early parenting COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: Assist the woman and her family in planning and preparing for birth and early parenting OMMENTS/STRATEGIES: Assist the woman and her family in planning and preparing for birth and early parenting OMMENTS/STRATEGIES: Assist the woman and her family in planning and preparing for birth and early parenting OMMENTS/STRATEGIES: Assist the woman and her family in planning and preparing for birth and early parenting OMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
19. Be able to assess for fetal growth restriction and refer appropriately COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	010
20. Understand physical and emotional changes in pregnancy and their potential effects on women's lives and wellbeing COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	010

dwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will confident to w in this area on
Undertake referral to, and consultation with:	
• Support groups in the community	
• Mental health services	\bigcirc
Community Services	

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	l will need to work on this
• Housing	\bigcirc	
Youth and community workers	\bigcirc	
• Social workers		
Alcohol and other drugs agencies	\bigcirc	

B. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Antenatal care		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	l will need to work on this
22. Undertake antenatal assessment of wellbeing for the woman and her baby and evaluate their progress COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	\bigcirc	
23. Communicate with women about fetal movements and be able to provide advice about changes in fetal movements COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	\bigcirc	

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
. Engage with women about sleeping positions in pregnancy based on national guidelines сомменть/strategies:	
. Identify breech presentation later in pregnancy and be able to articulate the principles of External Cephalic Version where appropriate and refer for ECV COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

b. Discuss evidence with women to enable decision making regarding the management of breech presentation in late pregnancy and birthing options and refer women to a vaginal breech service where relevant COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will ne to wo on th
	and birthing options and refer women to a vaginal breech service where relevant		
		\bigcirc	

lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
B. Explain to women the implications and potential actions re: pregnancies that are 'post dates' COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
Explain to women the implications and potential actions re: hypertension in pregnancy COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

D. Explain to women the implications and potential actions regarding diabetes in pregnancy COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	dwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to wor on this
Articulate the care of women experiencing emergencies during pregnancy including haemorrhage, eclampsia and cord prolapse comments/strategies:		
Discuss pain in labour and the potential role of the woman's endogenous opiates		

 Piscuss strategies to avoid premature admission to hospital in normal labour at term COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: Inderstand mandatory reporting for Child Protection COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 	wifery skill/knowledge/experience	confident to work in this area on this

dwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
Have knowledge of the different resources women might be drawing on during pregnancy in order to be able to engage with women about these – including televisual media, social media COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc
Have knowledge of preparation for labour and birth/parenting courses that women might be attending (eg: hypnobirthing, mindfulness, yoga, aqua-natal etc) COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	\bigcirc $ $ \bigcirc

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need
idwitery skill/ knowledge/ experience	confident to work in this area on this
8. Context specific skills knowledge and experience (fill in as relevant):	

PLAN OF ACTION

In order to enhance my confidence in this/these areas I will ...

lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to work on this
Be able to apply relevant local, national and international guidelines for intrapartum care (eg NICE Intrapartum care for healthy mothers and babies ⁷ ; WHO Recommendations: Intrapartum care for a positive experience ⁸) COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
Identify strategies for 'keeping birth normal' and supporting women during labour COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

C. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Labour and Birth		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will need to work on this
3. Support women in early labour at home in order to promote physiology and avoid unnecessary intervention COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
4. Understand the effect of the environment on women, their supporters and my own practice and able to adapt the institutional environment accordingly COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

C. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Labour and Birth	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
5. Understand behavioural indicators of progress in labour COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
6. Monitor and record labour progress and link the findings from a partogram to evidence-based decision-making COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

C. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Labour and Birth	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
7. Articulate strategies that prevent and address labour dystocia comments/strategies:	
8. Understand the principles of fetal assessment in labour COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

C. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Labour and Birth	I am I will nee confident to work
. Understand the indications for, and interpretations of electronic fetal monitoring COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	in this area on this
o. Understand the advantages, limitations and potential consequences of inhalation analgesia	
COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

11. Understand the advantages, limitations and potential consequences of pethidine, morphine or other narcotic medications in labour Image: Comments / STRATEGIES 12. Understand the advantages, limitations and potential consequences of epidural anaesthesia in labour Image: Comments / STRATEGIES	idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to work on this
		0	

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to worl in this area on this
Understand the advantages, limitations and potential consequences of vaginal examinations, including the use of amniotomy COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
Perform vaginal examinations accurately COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

15. Use IV equipment and administer drugs COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 16. Perform venepuncture and cannulation	
6. Perform venepuncture and cannulation	
COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

1idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l ai confic in this	dent to work
2. Engage with women and practice in ways that are likely to reduce perineal damage COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
. Understand evidence regarding episiotomy and be able to perform one if required COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will need to work on this
9. Perform a shoulder dystocia drill COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
D. Understand the advantages, limitations and consequences of physiological third stage COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
. Understand the advantages, limitations and consequences of active management of third stage COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
. Perform a PPH drill COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

C. Skills, Knowledge and Experience for Labour and Birth		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will need to work on this
23. Understand the need for, limitations and consequences of perineal repair COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
24. Perform perineal repair COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to work on this
: Understand the indications for the collection of cord blood and the ethical implications associated with this procedure COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
. Practise delayed cord clamping, skin-to-skin contact, early breastfeeding and keeping the baby warm		
COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am confident in this area on this
Perform immediate newborn assessment and care COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
. Perform neonatal resuscitation COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

dwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will ne confident to wo in this area on th
Understand the advantages, limitations and consequences of use of water in labour and birth COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
Work in partnership with people the woman has chosen to be her supporters in labour, including doulas and other birth workers	

31. Support women and their partners when unexpected events occur during labour and birth COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
2. Provide sensitive care with women and families experiencing loss, including stillbirth and neonatal death, using relevant guidelines COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

1idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
3. Context specific skills knowledge and experience (fill in as relevant):	

PLAN OF ACTION

In order to enhance my confidence in this/these areas I will ...

D. Skills Knowledge and Experience for the Postnatal Period	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
 Be able to apply relevant local, national and international guidelines for postnatal care (eg NICE Postnatal care up to 8 weeks after birth⁹) COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: 	\bigcirc \bigcirc
Discuss with women their experiences of labour, birth and new motherhood using active listening skills COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
Available from https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg37	

D. Skills Knowledge and Experience for the Postnatal Period		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	l will need to work on this
3. Demonstrate the ability to monitor progress for the woman and her baby COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
4. Be able to discuss with women normal events and the signs and symptoms of common disorders COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		

Understand and recognise postpartum infections O COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: O Engage in discussion with women regarding promoting bladder health and pelvic floor function O COMMENTS/STRATEGIES: O	idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to work on this
			\bigcirc
			\bigcirc

dwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
Understand emotional and psychological aspects of early parenting and the potential effects on women's lives and well being COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
Be able to assess psychological and social factors including appropriate responses and knowledge of referral resources comments/strategies:	

D. Skills Knowledge and Experience for the Postnatal Period		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will need to work on this
9. Understand the statutory requirements for Child Protection/Safeguarding COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
10. Be able to communicate effectively with other caregivers facilitating referral consultation and collaboration when appropriate comments/strategies:		

D. Skills Knowledge and Experience for the Postnatal Period		
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	l will need to work on this
11. Have knowledge of the principles of breastfeeding and management of common breastfeeding problems COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	\bigcirc	
12. Facilitate breastfeeding using 'hands off' techniques to promote successful attachment and to foster women's self reliance COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	0	

lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
B. Demonstrate knowledge of nutritional needs of the newborn, properties of breast milk and infant formula, and methods of infant feeding, including cup and spoon COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	
. Have knowledge of the stimulation and suppression of lactation COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

Perform a newborn assessment and be able to refer to a paediatric service if required COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	lidwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will nee confident to work in this area on this
	5. Perform a newborn assessment and be able to refer to a paediatric service if required COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	

D. Skills Knowledge and Experience for the Postnatal Period	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
17. Able to discuss and plan newborn and childhood vaccinations with parents COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	010
18. Understand the advantages, consequences and limitations of prophylactic medications commonly used for the newborn COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	010

D. Skills Knowledge and Experience for the Postnatal Period	
Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
19. Have knowledge of the implications of hypothermia and hypoglycaemia COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	010
20. Context specific skills knowledge and experience (fill in as relevant):	010

PLAN OF ACTION

In order to enhance my confidence in this/these areas I will ...

Have knowledge regarding the range of physiological and psychosocial components of human sexuality, particularly in relation to pregnancy and parenting COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:	idwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will ne to wor on thi
	particularly in relation to pregnancy and parenting	\bigcirc	
	Have knowledge regarding the issues related to working with parents in the LGBTQIA ¹⁰ community and be able to work sensitively with all who identify in this way using inclusive language as identified by the parents and families themselves		

Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	l am confident in this area	I will nee to work on this
. Understand methods of contraception and their risks and benefits COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		
Advise women about contraception options and refer appropriately COMMENTS/STRATEGIES:		0

Midwifery skill/knowledge/experience	I am I will need confident to work in this area on this
5. Context specific skills knowledge and experience (fill in as relevant):	

PLAN OF ACTION

In order to enhance my confidence in this/these areas I will ...



www.midwives.org.au