

## **Scope of midwifery practice**

The midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour 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 and abnormal situations in mother and infant, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures.

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 / reproductive health and child care.

A midwife may practise in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics or health units.

(Adapted from ICM, 2017)

## **Preamble**

The Midwives Council of Hong Kong ("the Council") (formerly named as the Midwives Board), established in 1910, is a statutory body for the regulation and registration of the midwifery profession in Hong Kong. The Council has developed the "Handbook for Midwives" and "Core Competencies for Registered Midwives", which serve as directions to assist midwives in the course of their practice in order to maintain professional care and standard as well as decree the competencies of professional midwives.

In addition, the registered midwives should practise in accordance with the "Handbook for Midwives" and "Core Competencies for Registered Midwives". These documents will be subjected to constant review in order to ensure the appropriateness and usefulness to reflect the contemporary role and requirements of practicing as registered midwives in Hong Kong.

In 2018, discussion in the Council about the advanced midwifery practice was made and it was agreed that with the development in midwifery, two levels of midwifery practice, general and advanced midwifery practice, could be established. The Council then started to work out the scope of practice, its domains of work and the core competencies for the advanced practice midwives.

Advanced midwifery practice is the performance of additional acts by registered midwives who had gained added knowledge and skills meeting the criteria as required by the Council in obtaining the recognition of advanced practice midwives.

### **Recognition of Advanced Practice Midwife**

An advanced practice midwife (“APM”) is an experienced, autonomous midwife who has acquired proficiency in midwifery practice and attained the post-registration educational preparation and passed the required assessment as stipulated by the Council from time to time; and recognised to practise advanced midwifery. The roles of advanced practice midwives are developed in response to woman’s needs and health service requirements at local, national and international levels.

### **Advanced Midwifery Practice**

Advanced Midwifery Practice (“AMP”) is to utilize advanced midwifery knowledge and expert skills to provide optimum care and improve clinical outcomes for woman and her babies through higher levels of cognitive capabilities, critical analysis, problem solving and accurate clinical decision making. Eight domains of advanced midwifery practice are identified to explain the work of the advanced practice midwives and to enhance the differentiation of the practice between a registered midwife and that of an advanced practice midwife. The eight domains are: direct midwifery care; consultation and referral; networking and collaboration; clinical education; personal and professional development; leadership and advocacy; quality assurance and improvement; and research and evidence-based practice. The core competencies of the advanced practice midwife are developed according to these eight domains.

### **Competencies of Advanced Practice Midwife**

Competencies are classified according to the following eight domains:

1. Direct midwifery care
2. Consultation and referral
3. Networking and collaboration
4. Clinical education
5. Personal and professional development
6. Leadership and advocacy
7. Quality assurance and improvement
8. Research and evidence-based practice

<b>Competence domain</b>	<b>Competency</b>
1. Direct midwifery care	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>1.1 Demonstrate effective and ethical decision making in managing high-risk and complex cases</p> <p>1.2 Empower high-risk woman or woman with complex health condition, and family in self-care and baby care</p> <p>1.3 Provide psychosocial support and care for high-risk and complex cases</p>
2. Consultation and referral	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>2.1 Demonstrate expertise in providing advice to other professionals on midwifery care</p> <p>2.2 Assess the woman's and newborn's conditions and make timely referrals to obstetricians or other health care professionals as appropriate</p>
3. Networking and collaboration	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>3.1 Build up linkage and partnership network with international and local healthcare professionals and other sectors to enhance the continuity of care in health care services</p> <p>3.2 Collaborate with health care professionals and community partners for family-centered care</p>
4. Clinical education	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>4.1 Conduct monitoring and supervision in innovative practice</p> <p>4.2 Enhance ethical and safe learning environment for midwife learners</p> <p>4.3 Provide coaching and guidance with the incorporation of adult learning principles and evidence-based practice on individual woman's and family's needs</p>

<b>Competence domain</b>	<b>Competency</b>
5. Personal and professional development	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>5.1 Develop his/her own potentials to contribute to clinical practice</p> <p>5.2 Continually update and broaden the knowledge and skills required for optimal woman's care and safety</p> <p>5.3 Act as a resource person in advanced midwifery practice within the care team and other health team</p>
6. Leadership and advocacy	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>6.1 Actively participate in policy making related to health</p> <p>6.2 Promote, protect and articulate the advanced midwifery practice role in clinical, professional and political context</p> <p>6.3 Be the lead professional in midwifery care</p> <p>6.4 Support midwife colleagues to cope with ever-changing healthcare environment</p> <p>6.5 Advocate woman's right in midwifery/health care</p>
7. Quality assurance and improvement	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>7.1 Be a change agent</p> <p>7.2 Continually review the midwifery care/practice/model to enhance the improvement related to woman's health, healthcare and the profession</p>
8. Research and evidence-based practice	<p>An advanced practice midwife should be able to:</p> <p>8.1 Take an active role in evidence-based practice and research activities</p> <p>8.2 Implement evidence-based practice and monitor its outcomes</p>

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