

**An Essential Guide for Student Midwives:
Preparing for Professional Practice**

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**Edited by
Sue Jacob and Tina Lavender**



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Note

While the authors and publishers have made every effort, as far as is possible, to confirm the information in this book complies with the latest standards of practice and legislation, the authors and the publishers cannot take responsibility from any instances arising as a result of errors. Healthcare practice and knowledge are constantly changing and developing. Practitioners are encouraged to seek help where they are not competent to carry out a procedure.

Contributors

Carol Bates

Carol is Midwifery Education and Practice Consultant. Carol became a midwife in 1967. She was Director of Midwifery Education at University College Hospitals, London, from 1992 to 1996, following which she worked in the Education Department at the Royal College of Midwives until 2006. Carol Bates is an experienced clinical midwife and educationalist and has published widely on all aspects of midwifery practice. She also has a particular interest in risk management. During the course of her career Carol Bates has represented midwifery on many multidisciplinary committees.

Janine Davis

Janine has been a midwife in practice and education for over twenty-five years and holds a Master of Science degree in midwifery practice. She is currently Senior Lecturer and programme leader for post registration midwifery programmes at Bournemouth University. She continues to engage with practice through her link midwife teacher role and it is experienced in the needs of student midwives and their mentors in respect of the preregistration midwifery programme. Janine has a keen interest in the history of the midwife and the professional regulation.

Pat Donovan

Pat is Lead Midwife for Education at the University of Central Lancashire. Pat qualified as a Nurse and Midwife in London in the 1970s and initially practised midwifery in Israel and also London. On qualifying as a teacher she moved into midwifery education, where she has been for the last 20 years, working in the West Country and South coast. Her research areas are education, embryology, and research methodology and she has published in the area of research methodology, key skills and general midwifery.

Sue Jacob

Sue is Student Services Advisor at the Royal College of Midwives. Sue worked as a midwifery lecturer prior to joining the Royal College of Midwives in 1995, and has extensive experience in all aspects of midwifery education and practice at policy and planning services level. Key aspects of her teaching role include developing, delivering and evaluating pre-registration and postqualification and return to practice education programmes. Her international work includes organising visits for overseas visitors to the RCM. She was a co-facilitator of 'training the teachers' Indonesia Safe Motherhood project. Sue is a proactive member of the medical and non-medical RCM International Forum.

Professor Tina Lavender

Tina is Professor in Midwifery and Women's Health at the University of Central Lancashire and leads a stream of research on the experiences, expectations and outcomes of maternity care. Tina is an Honorary Consultant Midwife at the Liverpool Women's Foundation Trust, where she leads a programme of clinically based research centring on optimizing normal birth. Tina is also committed to working internationally, through partnerships with groups such as the East Central and South African College of Nursing. She is a member of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood and the National Clinical FGM group. Tina is a member of the Cochrane Collaboration, responsible for a number of Systematic Reviews and is Joint Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Midwifery and Associate Editor of the African Journal of Midwifery. She is also a current Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Midwives.

Professor Paul Lewis

Paul is the Associate Dean of Midwifery, Rehabilitation and Health Sciences at Bournemouth University and leads its provision of midwifery education programmes and post graduate midwifery studies. Over the last 10 years he has been a Council member on both the UKCC and Nursing and Midwifery Council. He was elected to the current NMC and chairs both the Statutory Midwifery and Conduct and Competence Committees. Throughout his career he has remained clinically engaged. He is an instructor and faculty member of ALSO (UK); a Supervisor of Midwives at Poole NHS Trust and a Member of RCM Council.

Lisa McTavish

Lisa is a student midwife studying in Glasgow. Before commencing her midwifery programme Lisa worked for 10 years as a Registered Nurse for Learning Disabilities in Ayrshire.

Dame Lorna Muirhead

Dame Lorna Muirhead is Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside and the Immediate Past President of The Royal College of Midwives. Lorna's professional life has been in Clinical Midwifery, which spanned the years between 1965-2005. During that time, she lived through many changes within the NHS and huge philosophical changes regarding childbirth amongst midwives and the women for whom they care. Dame Lorna is often invited to air those views at study days and in debate as indeed she has been in the chapter of this book.

Rosaline Steele

Rosaline is Education Consultant and Fellow of the Higher Education

Academy. An experienced midwife educator with a particular interest in the continuing education of midwives, Rosaline has been influential in the development of midwifery education at a local and national level. She is particularly proud of her work at national level, in which she facilitated education programmes which broadened midwives understanding of antenatal testing for HIV. Rosaline successfully led one of the first wave developments of the direct entry pre-registration midwifery programme in a period when those programmes were not the norm. Rosaline's current research interests are in the development of midwifery professionalism and the generation of new knowledge from practice.

Andrew Symon

Andrew is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Dundee. Andrew qualified in 1986, following which he worked in both Scotland and Kenya as a midwife. After his first degree in Social Policy and Law he worked as a research midwife in Edinburgh, then parttime as a midwife in Perth. He completed his PhD in 1997. He has published two books based on this research, and has edited two more on clinical risk management. Research interests include the assessment of quality of life, independent midwifery, and nutrition during and after pregnancy.

Jane Walker

Jane is Consultant Midwife Homerton University Hospital, Hackney, North East London, and Supervisor of Midwives. She is working with Hackney Council, the local PCT and with local voluntary agencies leading a programme of work for reducing infant mortality. Jane has been a midwife since 1981. She was previously a lecturer in midwifery at City University, London, and has also been a senior midwifery manager. She has been project leader at the Edgware Birth Centre during the early years and through its important evaluation period. She has travelled extensively in UK and Europe lecturing about this subject. Her most recent research activity was a study of women's attitudes towards their behaviour in labour.

Foreword

A much welcomed, balancing, practical and insightful resource has finally arrived. This is a unique book and valuable guide for students as it not only provides essential information for them but also gives an honest, personalised and critical reflection of midwifery experiences across the UK.

This work is organised to cover the key themes of education, regulation, evidence and practice, as well as tracing political, social and cultural constructs that have hindered and helped the scope and sphere of practice. A refreshing inclusion is a number of chapters to raise the feminist and political consciousness amongst students during their formative years in the profession.

Increasingly, maternity services are responsive to divergent, political and policy agendas across the four UK countries and so are transforming to include a variety of providers and path-finder models. The resultant challenges and conflicts for midwives and the dilemmas these pose have been explored effectively by the contributors to this book.

Mindful of its key readership, the editors have included ‘activity boxes’ at the end of each chapter to stimulate reflection and creative thinking and so further challenge enquiring minds. The inclusion of useful website sources of evidence, model templates, and the application of key legislation to the role of the midwife are welcome additions to the student toolbox.

The influence of early key role models and inspirational mentors in shaping midwifery practice and the value of professional networks sustaining it are well articulated in its pages. For this alone, the book is essential reading for all student midwives.

*Monica Thompson
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The Statutes Governing the Role of the Midwife

Paul Lewis, Janine Davis

An essential aspect of professional practice is to understand and have insight into the immediate legal requirements, rules and regulations which determine our work and the wider legislation that shapes and directs our practice as providers of health and social care. In particular, to recognise the duties, obligations and responsibilities that being a midwife demands. At all times, we are expected to act in the best interests of the public we serve, as well as upholding the good name and standing of our profession. Like all members of our wider society we are expected to respect and uphold the laws of the land but in addition, to demonstrate the qualities of kindness, caring and consideration that is embodied in the role of the midwife. These qualities are integral to the expectations that the public have of us as responsible, individual members of a regulated professional body. They are part and parcel of our essential requirements of care and of vital importance to those who call upon our midwifery skills and knowledge. Without demonstrating these values and abiding by our standards, rules and codes of conduct, we risk losing the confidence and support of the wider public; who ultimately validate the positions we hold as midwives within our local communities and the society in which we live.

Yet the legal framework that govern the role of the midwife is for many student midwives, as well as some qualified practitioners, an area of professional practice that take second place to the acquisition of skills, knowledge and personal experiences that more overtly define who and what we are as clinicians. Nevertheless, without knowledge of the principles and statutes that govern the role of the midwife, we are at constant risk of breaching the codes, rules and regulations that seek to ensure the required standards of practice and the imperative of public protection. This can sometimes end with catastrophic results, not only for your own personal and professional esteem but also to the detriment of those to whom you are morally, legally and professionally bound; the mothers, babies and families in your care.

This chapter sets the statutes governing the role of the midwife. The basis of this chapter is to help you to understand the legal and professional duties and statutes that student midwives seeking entry to the professional register will have