

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MIDWIFERY SCIENCE**

**FINAL EXAMINATION: MAY 2017**

**COURSE TITLE: APPLIED RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE**

**COURSE CODE: MWF 452**

**TIME ALLOCATED: 2 HOURS**

**MARKS ALLOCATED: 75**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
- 2. USE THE PROVIDED ANSWER BOOKLET FOR ALL YOUR ANSWERS**
- 3. START ALL QUESTIONS IN A NEW PAGE**
- 4. USE BULLETS FOR EACH POINT IN YOUR ANSWERS (DO NOT INVENT YOUR OWN NUMBERING)**
- 5. FIGURES IN BRACKETS INDICATE MARKS ALLOCATED TO EACH QUESTION OF PART OF A QUESTION**
- 6. CHECK THAT YOUR QUESTION PAPER HAS 5 PRINTED PAGES**
- 7. DO NOT OPEN THE QUESTION PAPER UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE CHIEF INVIGILATOR**

## QUESTION 1

1.1 Midwives can participate in the research process through the following activities:

- A. Conducting research.
- B. Dissemination of research.
- C. Research utilization.
- D. Evidence-based practice.

For each of the statements below, write only the letter from 1.1 above that best describes each activity. (Some letters can be used more than once), e.g. 1.1.6 A

1.1.1 A midwife submits an article to a newspaper article about the study she participated in.

1.1.2 As a member of the health care team, the midwife was involved in developing a plan of care for a patient with postpartum depression using the findings from one meta-analysis and several research studies.

1.1.3 Two midwives are involved with data collection for a study which seeks to compare two types of dressings for caesarian section incisions.

1.1.4 The midwife has read about an intervention that will reduce the pain associated with labour by using Pethidine. After reviewing all the variables, he/she decides that trying the intervention would be a good idea and proceeds to develop an implementation plan.

1.1.5 A journal club comprised of midwives, gynaecologists and nurse practitioners has identified a specific clinical question and plan to develop a practice guideline by the end of the year.

**[5 marks]**

1.2 Once evidence has been identified from literature, it is important to assess its quality by critically appraising the evidence. Indicate **True** or **False** as to whether the following should be considered in deciding that the identified evidence is the best. The extent to which: [6]

1.2.1 there is inconsistency in findings across studies.

1.2.2 the evidence was published in peer-reviewed journals.

1.2.3 a significant number of studies with sample characteristics similar to those which the evidence will be used.

1.2.4 the studies support current practice.

1.2.5 the authors of the studies are well known in their field.

1.2.6 feasibility exists for use in practice.

1.3 Re-arrange the following major steps of evidence-based practice in the correct sequence. Use the number "1" for the first, "2" for the second step, etc. e.g. k) 11 [10]

- a) Choose an approach to assess the quality of the individual research and strength of the body of evidence.
- b) Select a topic.
- c) Critique the research.
- d) Implement the evidence-based change in practice.
- e) Form a team.
- f) Retrieve the best-available evidence.
- g) Synthesize the evidence.
- h) Evaluate the evidence-based change in practice.
- i) Decide if a change in practice is warranted.
- j) Write the evidence-based practice standard.

1.4 For each of the following research questions, identify the independent and dependent variables. [½ mark each = 4]

1.4.1 Does the postural positioning of women in labour affect foetal respiratory function?

1.4.2 Is a new mother's level of anxiety affected by the amount of touch received from midwifery staff during labour?

1.4.3 Are the number of antenatal visits of pregnant women associated with labor and delivery outcomes?

1.4.4 Does home birth affect the parents' satisfaction with the childbirth experience?

**[Total: 25 marks]**

## QUESTION 2

There has recently been an increase in the incidence of postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) in your unit, and the midwife-in-charge delegates you to lead a sub-committee that will draft a policy for the emergency management of PPH in the unit.

2.1 State whether the policy you are asked to formulate is:

2.1.1 either a vertical or horizontal policy. [1]

2.1.2 either a reactive or proactive policy. [1]

2.2 When formulating the policy, one of the phases required is conducting a situational analysis.

State what sections you would include in your situational analysis report. [7]

2.3 Describe the contents that you will include in the policy. [15]

2.4 When formulating the policy, you will be required to retrieve evidence from systematic reviews. Explain what a systematic review is. [1]

**[Total: 25 marks]**

### **QUESTION 3**

You recently came across a journal article reporting that midwives have difficulties implementing evidence-based practice (EBP). Discuss the barriers towards the implementation of EBP by midwives. **[25 marks]**