

University of Swaziland
Faculty of Health Sciences
Midwifery Department

Main examination paper, December 2019

COURSE NAME	PROFESSIONAL ISSUES AND PRACTICE IN MIDWIFERY
COURSE CODE	MWF445
TIME ALLOWED	2 HOURS
TOTAL MARKS	75

INSTRUCTIONS:

- ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS
- NUMBERS IN SQUARE BRACKETS DENOTE MARKS ALLOCATED
- START EACH QUESTION ON A FRESH PAGE
- DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL ADVISED TO DO BY THE INVIGILATOR

Question 1

For each of the following questions, select the best answer. E.g. 1.1a

1.1 Which of the following is a characteristic of a profession?

- a. High level of remuneration
- b. Respect by members of the public
- c. Informal education
- d. Good health insurance

1.2 One of the following is a marker of self-governance by a discipline. Which one is it?

- a. Application of the midwifery scope of practice
- b. Development of the midwifery scope of practice
- c. Supervision of midwives by obstetricians
- d. Community midwifery practice

Rosemarie, a registered midwife in the Kingdom of Eswatini is in trouble with her employer for professional misconduct on duty. Rosemarie was caught taking pethidine for self-use from the hospital labour ward, and without a medical prescription by a colleague. Questions 1.3 to 1.7 relate to this scenario.

1.3 To which of the following bodies should Rosemarie's case be reported to by the employer for professional misconduct?

- a. Eswatini Midwives Association
- b. Eswatini Nursing Council
- c. Eswatini CMAC
- d. Royal Eswatini Police

1.4 What is the likely course of action by the body to which Rosemarie will be reported to?

- a. Rosemarie may be suspended from midwifery practice pending a formal investigation
- b. Rosemarie may be kept in custody pending the results of a formal investigation
- c. Rosemarie may attend reconciliation hearings to try and mend her broken relationship with the employer
- d. Rosemarie may appear before a professional body disciplinary hearing before the Eswatini Midwives Association

1.5 Should Rosemarie be found guilty of the offence, which of the following could be the outcome?

- a. She could be fined after which she could return to duty as before
- b. She could be jailed with no hope for parole
- c. She could be labelled a hazard and removed from midwifery clinical practice permanently
- d. She could be fined for negligence

1.6 Assuming this was Rosemarie's first offence, and it is found that she had an acute pain that she was trying to attend to on duty, which of the following could be the outcome of the investigation by body to which she has been reported?

- a. Although not condoned, Rosemarie could be pardoned and deemed not a hazard to the public
 - b. Rosemarie could be given a minimal sentence and a warning by the courts
 - c. Rosemarie could be labelled a rebellious and delinquent employee whose services should be terminated by the employer
 - d. Rosemarie could be defended by the association with a demand to acquit her of all wrong doing
- 1.7 Should Rosemarie be found a habitual pethidine user for recreational purposes, which of the following would you recommended to be the ruling by the body to which Rosemarie was reported to?
- a. Send Rosemarie to a drug rehabilitation camp, after which she may resume her employment duties, no questions asked
 - b. Sentence Rosemarie to community service for at least 10 months
 - c. Revoke Rosemarie's membership from the association
 - d. Suspend Rosemarie's license to practice to practice midwifery
- 1.8 Which of the following is a professional responsibility of a midwife?
- a. Elimination of all health inequities
 - b. Overseeing country budgets for health
 - c. Providing voluntary counselling services to local schools
 - d. Keep a client's health information in confidence
- 1.9 The midwifery code of conduct includes one of the following statements. Which one is it?
- a. Promotion of the study of humanities and their role in human development
 - b. The formation of a legal team that oversees legal issues in maternity care
 - c. Recognition of human interdependence in midwifery practice and the resolution of conflicts
 - d. Overseeing financial issues relating to midwifery care
- 1.10 The midwifery philosophy is;
- a. Pregnancy and birth are normal for women below the age of 35 years
 - b. Pregnancy needs close monitoring on women below the age of 18
 - c. Pregnancy and birth are normal processes in developing countries
 - d. Pregnancy and birth are normal
- 1.11 Which of the following is not a midwife according to the ICM?
- a. A nurse with a bachelor's degree in midwifery
 - b. A nurse with a master's degree in clinical psychology
 - c. A nurse with an 18 month certificate training in midwifery
 - d. A nursing assistant who later studied for a 3 year bachelor's degree in midwifery
- 1.12 According to the scope of practice, midwifery practice should not occur in;
- a. Hospitals
 - b. Clinics
 - c. At home
 - d. Space

Daniel is a professional midwife, and on his way to work one morning, comes across a bus full of people involved in a road traffic accident. Among the passengers, Daniel spots a pregnant woman in labour whom he assists in a delivery of a live baby with a low Apgar score of 3 by the roadside. Daniel called for ambulance, while doing his best to stabilise mother and baby. Questions 1.13 to 1.16 relate to this scenario.

- 1.13 Which of the following statements is true?
- Daniel has worked beyond his scope of practice by assisting a woman by the roadside
 - Daniel should not have provided care to the woman, and should have instead called for a doctor's help
 - Daniel did well to provide midwifery care to the woman by the roadside
 - Daniel should not have touched that baby, and the low Apgar score is his fault
- 1.14 With such a low Apgar score, the baby is likely to have suffered cerebral haemorrhage. Which of the following is likely to ensue following this outcome?
- Daniel may be found guilty of malpractice which resulted in a cerebral palsy baby
 - Daniel could be sued for endangering the lives of the mother and baby
 - Daniel should be granted an independent practitioner license for his heroic acts in helping the mother and baby
 - Daniel should have demonstrated good ethics by stepping in to save the mother and baby's lives while off duty
- 1.15 Should Daniel get in trouble with his employer for arriving at work late on the day he helped out on the accident, Daniel can seek help from;
- The midwives' association
 - His lawyers
 - The nursing and midwifery council
 - the council of mediation and arbitration between employers and employees
- 1.16 Had Daniel not intervened in the scene of the accident, which of the following could have been the likely outcome?
- The woman would not have delivered
 - The mother would have a normal baby that had an Apgar of 10
 - Both mother and baby could have died
 - Nothing would have happened

Bachazile is a four year Midwifery student doing research study on a midwifery topic. She is investigating the lived experiences of pregnant teenage women in Swaziland. Questions 1.17 to 1.20 relate to this scenario.

- 1.17 What should Bachazile consider before she collects data?
- Explain to the teenage pregnant women what the study is about and then ask for their permission
 - Obtain permission from the guardians of pregnant teenage women to interview the women
 - Obtain permission from the clinic supervisor to interview pregnant teenage women
 - Obtain permission from the partners of the pregnant teenage women
- 1.18 When Bachazile encounters pregnant teenagers that only understand SiSwati, Bachazile should;

- a. Exclude SiSwati speaking participants from the study
- b. Interview the SiSwati in speaking participants in their native language
- c. Find a SiSwati interpreter
- d. Wait until the next day, when other participants who understand English may come

- 1.19 Bachazile realises that the pens she had as tokens of appreciation to participants are finished. Bachazile should;
- a. End data collection for the day, and return when she has enough pens to thank all those who participate
 - b. Continue with data collection. After all, the pens are just tokens of appreciation and not the main business of the study
 - c. Apologise to prospective participants, and explain that tokens of appreciation were on a first come first served basis
 - d. Continue with data collection, but get the pens at the end of the day for new participants the next day

1.20 Bachazile realises that the pens brought as tokens of appreciation for participants will not be enough, and the budget has been depleted. Bachazile should;

- a. Abandon the exercise of giving pens as tokens of appreciation altogether
- b. Give those that come first, and apologise to the rest once pens are finished
- c. Ask for donations from clinic members of staff to give to participants
- d. Do nothing

- 1.21. Bachazile realises that not all pregnant teenage women have the same socio-economic status. Some already have pens, while others have none. Bachazile should therefore;
- a. Give pens only to participants who have none until they finish then apologise to the rest
 - b. Give pens both participants with and without pens indiscriminately until they finish then apologise to the rest
 - c. Withhold giving pens to all participants
 - d. Postpone data collection

Sam is a professional midwife running his small private birthing unit. Sam refers women with difficulties/ complications to a local public maternity facility. The community in which Sam's clinic is also has a public maternity facility, and two private maternity hospitals owned by obstetricians. The following questions relate to this scenario.

- 1.22 Which of the following statements is expected of Sam as a professional midwife
- a. Sam should regard all other maternity facilities in the community competitors that he should his best to undermine
 - b. Sam should form collaborative relationships withal private and public maternity facilities
 - c. Sam should recruit midwives from competing health facilities to promote his clinic above other maternity units
 - d. Sam should work in at least one of the private hospitals part-time
- 1.23 Which of the following is a requirement for Sam to run his private clinic
- a. Insurance cover as indemnity in case his clinic is sued for midwifery errors
 - b. Community service to give back to the community
 - c. Performance of Caesarean sections in Sam's clinic
 - d. The hiring of an obstetrician to oversee the work of the midwives in Sam's clinic

- 1.24 Which of the following should Sam promote in his clinic?
- Midwifery members should not be registered to practice with the midwifery council
 - Midwives in Sam's clinic should not be employed part-time in other hospitals or clinics
 - Midwifery members of staff should be part of a midwifery professional body
 - Midwives working for Sam should not be allowed to further their professional education to avoid demand for salary increases
- 1.25 Sam as an employer and a midwife has a duty in the midwifery profession to;
- Allow trainee midwives to be mentored in his clinic
 - Provide scholarships for trainee midwives
 - Allow obstetricians to consult on maternity clinic days
 - Provide sponsored refresher courses for health providers in the community

[25 marks]

Question 2

2.1 Indicate whether each of the following statements are true or false.

[10 marks]

- The current nurses and midwives act was effected in 1975
- Eswatini midwives do not need to have a midwives association because they belong to the Eswatini Nurses Association and have automatic membership in the ICM.
- It is professionally prudent to ignore the law in one's practice so long as their professional conscience is clear.
- The discipline of midwifery professionals who have misconduct is the responsibility of the nursing and midwifery council.
- The Nursing Council and Midwifery has the responsibility to define the scope of practice for midwives.
- The right to life of the mother is always superior to the right to life of the foetus
- Midwives have professional rights, just as women have rights as clients.
- One can be regarded a midwifery professional after completing 12 months of inductor midwifery training.
- The Nursing and Midwifery Council is responsible for the advancement of the midwifery profession in Eswatini.
- Justice means everyone being treated fairly to meet their needs.

2.2 Compare and contrast the medical model of maternity care from the midwifery model of maternity care.

[15 marks]

[Total: 25 marks]

Question 3

3.1 Discuss any 5 ethical principles that a midwife has to consider when performing midwifery research. Give strategies that the midwife may use to assure that the research is ethically conducted. **[20 marks]**

3.2 Outline any 5 characteristics of a profession. **[5 marks]**

[Total: 25 marks]