

Intercollegiate Maternal Critical Care (MCC) Sub-Committee of the
Obstetric Anaesthetist Association

Maternity Enhanced Care
Competencies Required by Midwives
Caring for Acutely Ill Women

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Version 3.0

Introduction

These competencies have been developed on behalf of the Intercollegiate Maternal Critical Care Sub-committee of the Obstetric Anaesthetist Association. The purpose is to provide a competency framework for midwives on entry to the NMC register and for core midwives who care for women who are ill, and are at risk from deteriorating but do not need a critical care prepared nurse or midwife, and can be managed on a delivery suite / recovery area.

This competency framework is to be used in conjunction with NMC pre-registration midwifery education standards and local preceptorship and CPD arrangements. These skills are to be undertaken with appropriate underpinning theory and evidenced-based decision making.

The aims of the Intercollegiate Maternal Critical Care Sub-committee are to

1. To identify standards and expertise in the management of the acutely unwell pregnant or recently delivered mother
2. To develop links between MCC specialists in the UK via Royal Colleges and associated UK healthcare bodies
3. To build a consensus on models of care
4. To develop agreed multi-disciplinary curricular training and education

Members of the Intercollegiate Maternal Critical Care Sub-group can be found in appendix 1

Members of the Discussion Forum

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This document identifies the competencies and not the accompanying underpinning theory that is required.

Definition of Enhanced Maternal Care

An unwell obstetric patient who can be managed by an obstetric team.

An Obstetric Team will normally include a midwife, obstetrician, obstetric anaesthetist and, at times, an obstetric physician.

Care will be provided in an area designated to deliver enhanced obstetric care.

There are three levels of competency required by midwives:

- **Registration (R)** = competencies required at the point of entry to the midwifery part of the Nursing and Midwifery Council's register.
- **Core (C)** = competencies required for core midwifery staff employed on a delivery suite on a continuous basis.
- **Specialist Enhanced Skills (SES)** = specialist enhanced skills required by at least one midwife or nurse per shift in an area designated to deliver enhanced obstetric care.

Midwives must be able to undertake the following competencies in a safe and professional manner within the NMC Code of practice.

All competencies with a green bullet are required at the point of entry to the midwifery part of the NMC register unless otherwise stated with coloured bullet as above.

Respiratory System

The following competency statements relate to caring for women who require respiratory support, including monitoring, observation and respiratory care.

Accurately perform and correctly document a thorough respiratory assessment.

Assess and monitor the patient requiring respiratory support and take appropriate action where required

Assessment will include:

- Rate/Depth/pattern of respiration (R)
- Skin colour (R)
- Pulse oximetry (R)
- Use of accessory muscles (R)
- Sputum (R)
- Peak Flow (R)

Demonstrate an appropriate response to the observations that you have recorded including:

- Re-positioning the patient (R)
- Referral to and working with physiotherapist (R)
- Obtaining and processing samples (R)
- Assisting with deep breathing & expectoration C
- Safely perform ABG sampling from arterial lines and report results to appropriate team member **SES**
- Offer basic interpretation **SES**
- Suggest actions following interpretation **SES**

Oxygen Therapy

Assemble relevant equipment and administer oxygen therapy via:

- A simple face mask (R)
- A viable flow O₂ delivery system (R)
- Nasal cannula (R)
- Reservoir mask (R)
- Set up and use humidification methods (R)

Set up and use pulse oximetry

- Appropriately select probe site (R)
- Set alarms appropriately (R)
- Understand limitations of pulse oximetry (R)

Provide appropriate intervention for women experiencing airway problems:

- Position (R)
- Head tilt/chin lift/jaw thrust (R)
- Have knowledge of emergency equipment (R)
- Identify appropriate airway (R)
- Demonstrate safe insertion of airway (R)
- Demonstrate bag valve mask ventilation two-person technique (R)

Pharmacology

- Safely prepare and administer medications used in respiratory care
 - Bronchodilators (R)
 - Steroids C
- Monitor effects of medication (R)

Cardiovascular System

The following competency statements relate to monitoring and caring for a women who requires cardiovascular monitoring and management

Assess and monitor the women requiring cardiovascular support

Accurately perform and correctly document a full cardiovascular assessment including:

- Pulse – strength/volume/character-manual if irregular (R)
- Blood pressure including manual systolic and diastolic with different cuff sizes and lying and standing assessment (R)
- Temperature (R)
- Urine output & fluid balance (R)
- Capillary refill time (R)
- Skin turgor (R)
- Basic blood results (R)

Manage Fluid Replacement

- Recognise altered fluid status (R)
- Recognise the need for fluid intervention and therapies (R)
- Recognise the need for fluid restriction (R)
- Administer fluids in accordance with local guidelines (R)
- Accurately record fluid balance (R)

Central Venous Access

- Safely prepare for and assist with the insertion of a central line **SES**
- Discuss checking the line position before use in accordance with local policy **SES**
- Correctly prime a transducer **SES**
- Correctly attach a transducer to a central line **SES**
- Correctly zero a transducer **SES**
- Correctly identify when re-zeroing is required **SES**
- Correctly set appropriate alarm limits **SES**
- Apply an appropriate dressing in accordance with local policy **SES**
- Safely use and change needle free ports **SES**
- Safely remove a central line **SES**

Arterial Line Management

- Prepare for and assist in the safe insertion of an arterial line **SES**
- Correctly prime a transducer **SES**
- Correctly attach a transducer to an arterial line **SES**
- Correctly zero a transducer **SES**
- Correctly identify when re-zeroing is required **SES**
- Correctly set appropriate alarm limits **SES**
- Apply an appropriate dressing in accordance with local policy **SES**
- Correctly obtain a blood sample from the arterial line **SES**
- Safely remove of an arterial line **SES**

Shock

Recognise and interpret signs and symptoms of:

- Cardiovascular shock (R)
- Hypovolemic shock (R)
- Anaphylactic shock (R)
- Septic shock (including 1st hour care duties) (R)

Cardiac Rhythms

- Correctly attach the patient to a cardiac monitor C
- Correctly check 'emergency' equipment including defibrillator C
- Correctly identify from the cardiac monitor output:
 - Bradycardia C
 - Tachycardia C
 - Ectopic beats C
- Correctly identify and follow BLS/ILS guidelines where appropriate for the following life threatening dysrhythmias:
 - Asystole C
 - Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA) C
 - Ventricular tachycardia C
 - Ventricular fibrillation C

Associated Pharmacology

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of prescribed medications used to support the cardiovascular system including:

- Anti-hypertensive drugs
- Magnesium Sulphate
- Safely prepare and administer prescribed medications used to support the cardiovascular system including: C
- Anti-hypertensive drugs C
- Magnesium Sulphate C
- Titrate medication under supervision to achieve targets set by medical staff (e.g. MAP, systolic pressure) **SES**

Renal System

The following competency statements relate to the safe and effective assessment of renal function, monitoring of fluid balance and care of women at risk of acute kidney injury.

- Determine the monitoring needs for women at risk of deteriorating renal function
- Demonstrate the ability to accurately measure and record fluid balance and reports abnormalities appropriately
- Identify factors which may affect the assessment of renal function (e.g. blocked catheters and urinary retention)
- Evaluate the effectiveness of fluid replacement
- Administer appropriate care to the patient with a urinary/urinary tract catheter (according to national guidelines and local policy)
 - Utilise locally available equipment:
- Catheterisation equipment
- Urometers
- Identify women who are fluid depleted
- Identify women who are fluid overloaded
- Review biochemistry results and take appropriate action C
- Monitor and review a patient's biochemistry and haematology results C

Neurological System

The following competency statement relates to the assessment and management of the neurologically compromised patient.

A neurological assessment using the AVPU scoring system

Identify deterioration in neurological status

- Check blood glucose and take appropriate action (R)

Identify focal deficits such as:

- Gag and swallow reflex (R)
- Pupillary response (R)

Demonstrate an appropriate response to the observations that you have recorded including:

- Protecting the airway (R)
- Placing patient in recovery position (R)

General

The following competency statement relates to general elements of care required when supporting women in need of enhanced obstetric care

- Complete the MEOWS accurately (R)
- Follow track and trigger system to escalate care (R)
- Provide accurate documentation of assessment/intervention/evaluation & referrals (R)
- Contribute to on-going management plan (R)
- Communicate with the MDT using structured approach e.g. SBAR (R)
- Provide appropriate and accurate information for the woman and her family (R)

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