

# Promoting Advanced Practice in Midwifery

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Facing The Future

# Midwifery

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.



ICM 2011

# Midwifery

## Standards for competence

- Be autonomous practitioners and lead carers for women experiencing normal pregnancy & childbirth.
- Make critical decisions to support the appropriate referral of either the woman or baby when the normal processes have been adversely affected.

(NMC 2015)



# Midwifery Education

BSc Midwifery –  
direct entry  
physiological,  
sociological and  
psychological  
aspects of childbirth

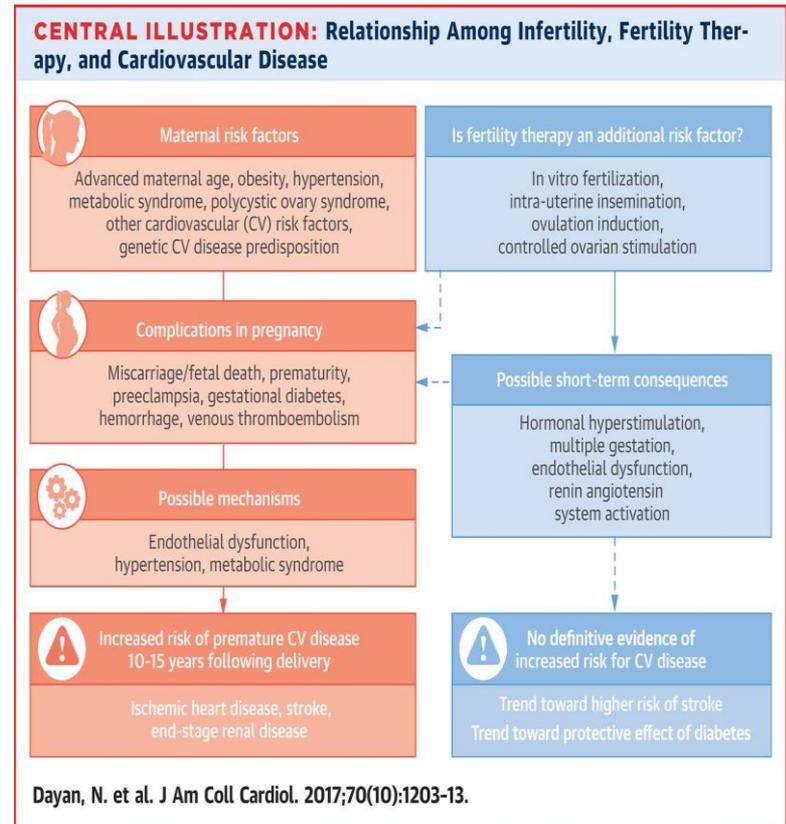


# Changes within Maternity Services

## Changes in the case mix of women giving birth

- Women delaying first pregnancy
- Increase in assisted conception
- Co-morbidities
  - Diabetes
  - Cardiac conditions
- Obesity

(Institute of fiscal studies 2017)



# Changes within Maternity Services

## Midwives

- Shortage – plan to train more than 3000 extra midwives over 4 years, starting with 650 more midwives in training 2019 (RCM 2018)

## Obstetricians

- nine out of 10 (88%) units are struggling to recruit enough middle-grade doctors to ensure proper staffing levels

NHS's Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) 2017



# Advanced Practice

## Midwifery focus



## Literature

- AP in midwifery seems to be a controversial notion and the necessity has been questioned (Goemaes 2016)
- New and expanded roles are seen as essential (Begley et al 2007)
- Creating advanced levels of practice could generate a midwifery “elite” (Lewis 2000, Lessing Turner 2001)
- All qualified midwives function at an advanced level of practice if they practice autonomously and to the full scope of their practice (Smith et al 2010)
- When advanced midwifery practice is developed further a clear conception is vital to advance the discipline (Ruel and Motyka 2009)

# Advanced Practice

## Midwifery focus



- **Royal College of Midwives**
  - Role of Midwife
    - Expertise lies in the care of women & babies during normal pregnancy & birth
  - Guiding criteria for the development of Midwives role
    - The impact on core midwifery care & associated standards
    - The availability of funds to resource training, professional development, monitoring & audit.
    - Acceptability to women & midwives

# Advanced Practice Midwifery Role - RCM



- RCM is supportive of developing Advanced Practice Midwifery roles that are of benefit for midwives and women and maintain the integrity of the Consultant role.
- Consultant midwives
  - Experienced Clinical Expert
  - Wider sphere of practice
  - Focus on different elements of expert practice
  - Service development
  - Clinical leadership
  - Education & training

# Advanced Practice midwifery focus



## Definition

- Irish definition (National Council for the Professional Development of nursing and Midwifery)  
*“ midwives who promote wellness, offer healthcare interventions and advocate healthy lifestyle choices for patients/clients, their families and carers in a wide variety of settings in collaboration with other health care professionals, according to agreed scope of practice guidelines”*

# Advanced Practice midwifery International



- North America
  - Specialised and Advanced practice roles existed 40years
    - Clinical Nurse Midwives and AP / Consultant midwives
- Europe
  - UK– Development with Consultant midwife role
  - Ireland – called AP role though similar to Consultant UK
- Australia
  - ACM – A midwife who works within the full scope of midwifery practice is not working as advanced level but fulfilling the defined role of midwife
  - NMBA consultation document of the definition of AP and NP 2019
- New Zealand
  - Midwives are recognised as autonomous practitioners which are competent to provide complete maternity care for low risk women.

# Advanced Practice Framework

## Scoping Exercise

Specialist/advanced Non-medical practice roles within Poole NHS Trust.

- Specialist Practice
  - Safe guarding, A/N Screening Coordinator, Diabetes, Smoking Cessation, Research, Infant feeding, Frenotomy Midwife, Risk, Bereavement,
- Advancing and Advanced practice
- Managerial roles



# Evolving practice themes

## Midwives

- Lack of preparation before taking on new roles
- To develop more “midwife led” initiatives across the service
  - Elective C/S pathway – Pre – assessment, admission to discharge
- **Vision for Advance practice across service**
  - Assessment/diagnosis and treatment - ANDA
  - Ventouse practitioner
  - Care of the critically ill woman /HDU care
  - Examination of the newborn
  - Management of the TCU baby
  - USS – 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester fetal assessment



# AP Midwifery UK

## Models

- Bolton NHS Trust
  - Team AMP MSc AP – 2014
  - Triage/CDS
  - Assessment/diagnosis/complex case management
  - Vision is to bridge the gap between midwives and the medical team to promote a flawless service that will prove of great benefit to women and their families.



(Hamilton et al 2015)

# Bolton model

## Role perceptions

- Reducing workload of registrar
- Midwifery focus of caring
- Clinical tasks in a timely fashion
- Excellent communication skills
- Approachable supportive
- Combining midwifery and medical skills
- Advocate for the midwife
- Improved midwife-medical working relationships

(Hamilton 2015)



# AP Midwifery Future

- Clear concept of AP in midwifery
- Identify knowledge and skill gaps of workforce
- Succession planning
- Role development should be in tandem with Medical and AHP colleagues and include women's voices.
- Clear professional support and governance
- The availability of funds to resource training, professional development, monitoring & audit.
- National network
  - (Part of Academy )



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