



CARE OF THE NEWBORN

BACKGROUND

The care of the newborn is an integral part of the role of the midwife as defined in the Definition of the Midwife (ICM, 2011). ICM affirms its belief that the midwife is responsible for the care of the newborn and the infant. The midwife must attain and maintain adequate skills and competencies in:

- Resuscitation of the newborn
- Examination of the newborn
- General care of the newborn and the detection/ management of common conditions
- Identification of complications and referral as appropriate
- Early establishment and continuation of breastfeeding, with family and community education to promote, protect and support breastfeeding
- Education of mothers and families in the prevention and management of diseases and other conditions, and the need for immunisation
- Supporting the process of bonding and attachment between the mother and her newborn

POSITION

Education of midwives should include development of competency in the care of the newborn including assessment and management of common conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Member associations are urged to:

- Seek to influence the education of midwives to ensure that they have the knowledge, understanding and appropriate skills to care for the newborn and effectively manage emergency care
- Encourage midwives, where appropriate, to develop specialised skills in the care of the newborn with special needs

RELATED ICM DOCUMENTS

ICM Core Document. Definition of the Midwife (ICM/WHO/FIGO, 2011)

ICM Position Statement. Breastfeeding (2011)

ICM Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (2010)

OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support of Breastfeeding. UNICEF, 1990

Adopted at Vienna International Council meeting, 2002

Revised and endorsed at Durban International Council meeting,

Due for next review 2017