Being an accountable, autonomous, professional midwife

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Midwives are fully accountable as the lead professional for the care and support of childbearing women and newborn infants, and partners and families. Respecting human rights, they work in partnership with women, enabling their views, preferences, and decisions, and helping to strengthen
their capabilities. They promote safe and effective care, drawing on the best available evidence at all times. They communicate effectively and with kindness and compassion.

Outcomes

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At the point of registration, the midwife will be able to:

1.1understand and act in accordance with The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates, and fulfil all registration requirements

1.2understand and act in accordance with relevant legal, regulatory, and governance requirements, policies, and ethical frameworks including any mandatory reporting duties, differentiating where appropriate between the devolved legislatures of the United Kingdom

1.17demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the range of factors affecting women, newborn infants, partners, and families and the impact these factors may have, including but not limited to:

1.17.1health and social inequalities and their determinants

1.17.2historical and social developments and trends

1.17.3cultural and media influences on public and professional understanding

1.21understand and respect the woman's right to decline consent, and demonstrate the ability to provide appropriate care and support in these circumstances

1.22be able to advocate for the woman when her decision is outside of clinical guidance, in order to minimise risk and maintain relationships

1.23demonstrate the skills of numeracy, literacy, digital, media, and technological literacy needed to ensure safe and effective midwifery practice

1.24understand the importance of effective record keeping, and maintain consistent, complete, clear, accurate, secure, and timely records to ensure an account of all care given is available for review by the woman and by all professionals involved in care

1.25act as an ambassador, uphold public trust and promote confidence in midwifery and health and care services

1.26understand the professional responsibility to maintain the level of personal health, fitness, and wellbeing required to meet the needs of women, newborn infants and families for psychological and physical care

1.27take responsibility for continuous self-reflection, seeking and responding to all support and feedback to develop their professional knowledge, understanding, and skills.