

**Standard 1: The midwife shall use communication skills to ensure that the woman and her family, as well as other members of the healthcare team, remain fully informed.**

#### **Competencies**

- Initiates and develops a therapeutic relationship with the woman and her family through the use of appropriate communication, listening, and interpersonal skills.
- Maintains confidentiality at all times.
- Develops professional behaviours that positively affects communication and practice.
- Demonstrates a cultural and spiritual understanding of women and their families.
- Consistently communicates relevant, accurate, and comprehensive information in verbal, written, and electronic forms in a timely manner to ensure the delivery of safe, competent, and ethical care.
- Works with others to build consensus or resolve conflict as part of the wider multidisciplinary team.
- Works effectively and professionally as part of the multidisciplinary maternity care team.

**Standard 2: The midwife shall use data systems to enhance the quality and delivery of care for women and their families.**

#### **Competencies**

- Acquires the information technology skills necessary to inform, provide, and record optimum maternity care.
- Understands the use technology and data to assist in the identification of complications in pregnancy, childbirth, and the postnatal period.
- Understands and completes appropriate risk monitoring records when necessary.
- Analyses data accurately and comprehensively, leading to the appropriate interpretation of findings and development of implementation plans.

### **Domain Eight: Continuing Professional Self-Development**

Professional self-development is a lifelong process that is focused on evaluating and improving skills and knowledge. Self-directed learning described as the process in which individuals take the initiative, with or without the help of others, in diagnosing their learning needs, formulating learning goals, identifying human and material resources for learning, choosing and implementing appropriate learning strategies, and evaluating learning outcomes (Brunt and Morris, 2022).

Thus, it is essential for each midwife to engage in professional development after graduation in order to acquire new knowledge and competence to practise effectively in an ever-changing healthcare environment. Continuing professional and personal development is required in order to maintain and enhance professional standards and to provide quality, competent, and safe patient care (Price & Reichert, 2017). Midwives are expected to assess their learning needs, set learning objectives that can be achieved utilising the appropriate resources, apply the best learning strategies, and evaluate outcomes of the acquired learning in a continuous process.

**Standard 1: The midwife shall assume responsibility for their own professional self-development through lifelong learning to ensure continued competence and performance improvement.**

#### **Competencies**

- Undertakes regular self-assessment and reviews own practice through reflection, peer review, critical examination, and evaluation.
- Identifies the need for and takes responsibility for updating knowledge and skills for practice.
- Actively engages in ongoing professional development and performance improvement for self and others.
- Achieves excellence in high-technology approaches to care through ongoing education.
- Recognizes advances in practice management and evaluating services and makes due effort to ensure that these are implemented into practice.
- Maintains an accurate record of learning and professional development activities.
- Promotes the profession of midwifery, including participation in professional organizations at the local and national levels.