

GLOSSARY

Nurse/Midwife Technician

A healthcare professional who practices within the Nurse/Midwife Technician Scope of Practice and who (a) has successfully completed a minimum of three years* of a nursing/midwifery diploma program, (b) has passed the assessments required by the SCFHS, and (c) continues to meet the national standards of nurse/midwife technician.

*National nurses/midwives who completed and classified as technicians and completed two years of education fall under this category.

Nurse/Midwife Specialist

A healthcare professional who practices within the Nurse/Midwife Specialist Scope of Practice, working autonomously and in collaboration with others, and (a) has successfully completed a bachelor's degree in nursing/midwifery or its equivalent, (b) has passed the assessments required by the SCFHS for entry into practice, and (c) continues to meet the national standards of nurse/midwife specialist.

Registered Nurse/Midwife

A self-regulated healthcare professional who is a graduate of a university or college of nursing/midwifery and has successfully passed the licensure exam set by the nursing and midwifery body.

In this document, there are two categories of registered nurses (RN)/midwives (RM): a) Nurse/Midwife Technician and b) Nurse/Midwife Specialist. Whenever registered nurse/midwife is mentioned in this document without specifying the classification level, it can be assumed to include licensed nurses/midwives at all levels.

The Scope of Nursing/Midwifery Practice

'Scope of practice' is a concept that several professions use in the context of professional regulation. The scope of practice sets out the procedures, actions, and processes that the registered or licensed professional is allowed to perform. It also gives them the authority to perform a particular role or task (NMBI, 2015).

The scope is the range of roles, functions, responsibilities, and activities which a registered professional nurse/midwife is educated for, competent in, and authorised to perform. It defines the accountability and limits of practice in Saudi Arabia whilst contributing to their vital role in the promotion, protection, maintenance, and restoration of health.

Standards of Practice

'Standards of practice' describes how registered nurses/midwives should act to provide holistic patient care.

Patient/Client

The patients, persons, women, families, groups, communities, or populations who are the focus of attention and to whom the registered nurse/midwife is providing services as sanctioned by regulatory bodies.

Accountability

Accountability is the formal obligation of a professional to account for his/her actions, activities, omissions, and accept responsibility for them, and disclose the results in a transparent manner.

Accountability is the cornerstone of nursing and midwifery practice. Nurses and midwives are accountable both professionally and legally for their practice as well as to their client/patient, the public, their regulatory body, their employer, and any relevant supervisory authority.

Autonomy

Autonomy is referred to the ability of the registered nurse or midwife to act beyond standard practice and make decision regarding individual patient care by influencing working practices and conditions to ensure they are performing their duties using their professional knowledge, competencies, clinical decision making and critical judgment.

Responsibility

The obligation to perform duties and answer for all actions and decisions.

Competence

Effective application of a combination of knowledge, skills, and judgement demonstrated in everyday practice.

Delegation

The transfer of responsibility for the performance of a task from one person to another. Although the responsibility for the task is transferred, accountability for the process or outcome of the task remains with the person delegating the activity. This means that the delegator is accountable for ensuring that the delegated task is appropriate and that support and resources are available to the person to whom the task has been delegated.

Supervision

Supervision in clinical practice defined as a formal process of professional support, reflection, evaluation and learning that contributes to individual development and provide a support system for one another.

There are two forms of supervision practiced by nurses and midwives in clinical practice. a): Direct supervision, demonstrated by the presence of the supervising nurse or midwife alongside with the supervised healthcare member to regulate or unregulated the delegated work performed under supervision. b): Indirect supervision, demonstrated by nurses and midwives when they do not present to monitor the delegated task yet they evaluate the outcomes. Both direct and indirect supervision include overseeing, direction, guidance, support and evaluation.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Professional development is the process of improving practice through continuous education and training to acquire new knowledge, skills and competencies that relate to one's profession, job responsibilities, or work environment with the intention of improving population health. Nurses and midwives are accountable to remain current and safe in the profession by engaging in ongoing self-directed learning with understanding that knowledge and skills are dynamic and evolving.