

## **Points for Consideration**

In applying the scope of practice nurses and midwives must embody professional values. The following are the considerations in determining the scope of nursing and midwifery practice:

### **1- COMPETENCE**

In determining their scope of practice, nurses and midwives must make judgements about their competency to carry out a role or activity.

Competence is Effective application of knowledge, clinical skills, ethical and professional values and judgement in everyday practice. Thus, nurses and midwives not only fulfil certain roles or complete specific activities, but they also possess many additional attributes that allows them to practice and collaborate with other healthcare professionals with high professional and ethical manners.

As competence is not constant and changes and develops with advancement in health care and evolving of new evidence, nurses and midwives are expected to continually re-evaluate their competence when faced with new practice situation. Each nurse and midwife is accountable for their professional action and, as such, they should refuse delegated or assigned tasks or actions if their competence is limited, and must take appropriate measures to gain competence.

### **2- RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY & AUTONOMY**

Responsibility, accountability and autonomy are all integral and are cornerstones of professional nursing and midwifery practice. Nurses and midwives hold positions of responsibility and are, therefore, expected to be accountable for their practice.

Responsibility: in nursing and midwifery it is the obligation to perform duties and tasks and being able to answer for all actions and decisions made in doing so.

while Accountability: is the formal obligation of a nurse or midwife to account for his/her actions, activities, omissions, and accept responsibility for them, and disclose the results in a transparent manner. 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. A nurse or a midwife should be able to give reasons for the decisions they make in their professional practice and should justify their decisions in the context of legislation,