

Role of the Registered Nurse within Maternity Services	
Summary statement: How does the document support patient care?	To provide all clinical staff working within Maternity Services with the essential guidance on the role of the registered nurse (RN) working within the maternity department.
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Division:	Women and Children's
Department:	Maternity
Responsible Person:	Chief of Service
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For use by:	All staff providing care in maternity services
Purpose:	This SOP is to ensure all staff working in maternity services are aware of the role of the registered nurse
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1.1	Sept 2023	CE Team	LIVE	Merged approval with Legacy East.

**The interpretation and application of clinical guidelines will remain the responsibility of the individual clinician.
If in doubt contact a senior colleague or expert.**

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Role of the Registered Nurse within Maternity Services

1.0 Aim

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide all clinical staff working within Maternity Services with the essential guidance on the role of the registered nurse (RN) working within the maternity department. To promote consistency in delivery of care to the required standard across the service. Provide a key element of information / training to assist staff in delivering their roles and responsibilities in this area of the service.

2.0 Scope

This SOP applies to all midwives, registered nurses, support workers and medical staff working within Maternity Services. The intention of the document is to ensure the maintenance of safe and effective clinical care.

3.0 Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all staff working within maternity services to:

- Access, read, understand, and apply this guidance.

It is the responsibility of the division to:

- Ensure the SOP is accessible to all maternity staff.
- Monitor outcomes of the SOP.

4.0 Abbreviations used within this SOP

SOP - Standard Operating Procedure	RN - Registered Nurse
SBAR - Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation	MEOWS - Modified Early Obstetric Warning Score
NEWT - Newborn Early Warning Trigger & Track	NMC - Nursing & Midwifery Council
BFI - Baby Friendly Initiative	MIS - Maternity Information System eg Badgernet

5.0 Background

Across the UK, maternity services are primarily staffed by midwives. However, midwife shortages and the increasingly complex needs of many pregnant women and people have led to rising numbers of Registered Nurses assisting midwives in delivering care.

To work with midwives, obstetricians and support workers and assist in the delivery of professional nursing care to antenatal and postnatal women and people on the ward. Ensuring that the highest possible standards of care are received by patients and their carers while in the hospital setting.

6.0 Main duties and responsibilities

The registered nurse will be the prime care provider practising directly under the supervision of the midwife during the antenatal and postnatal period on the maternity ward, focusing on the nursing requirements of women and people, and babies.

Be responsible and accountable for the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of individual care needs for assigned mothers and birthing people and babies on the postnatal/antenatal wards.

The role will include but not limited to, postnatal examinations of mother and birthing people and baby, preparation for obstetric theatres, medication administration and management, infant feeding support, postnatal education and discharge to the community midwifery team and referral for appropriate obstetric/neonatal or other review where indicated.

7.0 Clinical responsibilities:

- To give supervised care during the postnatal period to the mother and birthing person and family with particular emphasis on care of the woman and person following surgical intervention and supporting midwives with the care of sick postnatal women and people.
- To have awareness of the needs of our multicultural and diverse community including vulnerable and disadvantaged families.
- Assess patient care needs and the development and implementation of programmes of patient care and participate in the evaluation of these.
- To ensure a high standard of nursing care is performed at all times and assist in the review and regular update of these standards.
- Ability to recognise and respond appropriately to changes in the patient's condition and safety. Able to use maternity specific SEPSIS and SBAR tool, MEOWS and NEWTT charts on MIS after associated training.
- Adhere to all Trust Policies to maintain professional, clinical and patient safety.
- Ability to administer drugs safely and independently in line with the NMC and Trust Policy guidelines

- Be aware of the principles of infection control and the prevention of cross infection in relation to patient care and the clinical environment.
- Be able to communicate basic care information and answer queries to patients, their relatives/carers and the multidisciplinary team members
- Undertake intravenous drug therapy and blood product/transfusion administration following a training programme which will assess the competencies and practical levels required to achieve safe working within the Trust policies and procedures.
- Care and control of medication and controlled drugs used for patient care, being aware of the systems used for safe administration and the ordering and maintenance of stock.
- Support midwifery and nursing students, provide feedback on any skills competencies achieved in relation to nursing practise.
- To provide infant feeding support after undergoing a course of training in line with BFI guidance and UH Sussex Infant feeding policies.
- To perform neonatal observations after a course of education, training and assessment of competency. Report any abnormalities to allocated midwife.
- Governance - take an active role in identifying and reporting any incident or near miss using trust Policy.

7.1 Managerial responsibilities

- To organise own daily workload in clinical area with supervision.
- To support the midwives in the daily running of the clinical areas.
- To assist in the introduction of new staff to the ward if within scope of practise, help supervise their work and report to the Senior Midwife on their progress.
- To ensure equipment checks are completed and environment maintained, any breakages/ repair works reported via appropriate pathway.
- To have an awareness of child protection issues and refer to senior colleagues.
- Maintain security of ward environment at all times.

7.2 Educational training and development:

- To undertake appropriate activities to update clinical knowledge and skills and show evidence of continuing professional development using available resources.
- Participate in clinical training, including teaching and supervision of new staff, unqualified staff and student midwives in the ward environment, within the nursing scope of practise.
- Undertake a minimum of once yearly appraisal with the ward manager for development planning.
- Advise patients and relatives / visitors to the ward with regard to control of infection.
- Advise on the promotion of health and prevention of illness.

7.3 Professional and legal responsibilities

- To be aware of the hazards associated with using equipment and to report any failures of equipment to the Senior Midwife/Midwife in charge of the shift.
- To be conversant with the Fire, Health and Safety policies and other policies of the Trust.
- To report all accidents and complaints in accordance with agreed policies and assist in investigating of complaints and accidents as required.
- To be conversant with all the Trust Nursing and Midwifery Policies and Procedures.
- To document any care/ interventions in line with NMC code using paper or electronic records.
- Maintain professional portfolio.

8.0 References

Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) *The code: professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates*. Available at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/code/> (Accessed: 11 January 2023).

9.0 Monitoring

Compliance with this SOP will reviewed at the nurse's annual appraisal.

Appendix 1: Postnatal Ward Team Roles

Postnatal Ward Team Roles



Registered Nurses (B5)

- Administration of prescribed medicines
- Wound care
- Recovery Care following caesarean birth / procedure
- ECG
- Cannulation
- IVs - Adults
- Transfusion - blood, iron etc

Midwives

To oversee registered nurses, nursery nurses, maternity assistants at all times and perform any of the listed skills in addition to the below **midwife only skills**:

- CTG's
- Full postnatal check
- Uterine palpation and lochia assessment
- Take overall responsibility for women and birthing people and babies

- Maternal and birthing parent observations
- Catheter care / removal
- Venepuncture (if trained)
- Cannula removal
- Scribing in emergencies
- Pressure area care
- Service users personal care

Maternity Assistants

- TED stockings
- Theatre runners
- Admission / discharge and admin support when required
- Meal time support
- General runners

Nursery Nurses

- Jaundice – TCB's / BBR / SBR's
- Phototherapy care / hot cots (once escalated)
- Attend paediatric handover meeting
- Discharge prep for TC babies
- Ward round with paediatric registrar
- Ward attenders for jaundice (TBC)
- Neonatal cannula removal
- Day 3 / Day 5 blood spots / weights

- Infant feeding support / planning (once study day attended)
- Documenting contemporaneously
- Baby observations
- General housekeeping – stock, cleaning
- Supporting new team members
- Resuscitation – adult and neonatal support
- Maintaining equipment / checks
- Tendable