

# SCOPE OF PRACTICE

FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE MIDWIFE –  
MIDWIFE PRACTITIONER



**MAY 2022**



SCOPE OF PRACTICE  
**FOR ADVANCE PRACTICE MIDWIFE –  
MIDWIFE PRACTITIONER**

1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION

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## VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

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### **Our Vision**

A world-class regulatory body in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



### **Our Mission**

Develop standards, enforce regulations in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



### **Our Values**

Our core values express that everything we do comes from deeply-held commitments and shared understanding of our values, what we stand for, how we treat each other and those we serve; that inform every policy and steer every action summarized as:

# Inspire

**I – Integrity:** We are committed to acting in an honest, accountable and transparent manner in all our undertakings.

**N – Nurture:** We value and nurture the strength of character it takes to work together as a team, to be an individual, to respect differences of opinions, and have the ability to empathize with others.

**S – Social Responsibility:** Caring for the patient, family, community and the environment.

**P – Professionalism:** We are dedicated to the highest levels of achievement obtainable through competencies and critical skills.

**I – Innovation:** We thrive on creativity and ingenuity. We seek the innovations that are evidence-based and data-driven to bring a positive change to the Council.

**R – Responsiveness:** We act with a sense of urgency, make qualified decisions in time and provide fiscally responsible solutions.

**E – Excellence:** We pledge the highest levels of effectiveness and efficiency.

## FOREWORD

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The Midwifery profession has evolved to address the health, societal and person-centered care challenges. The International Council of Midwives (ICM) has been calling for investment in midwifery in particular Advanced Practice Midwifery (APM) to

address global health challenges.

Midwife Practitioners (MP) are an effective and efficient resource to address the challenges of accessible, safe, and affordable Midwifery, sexual and reproductive health care. While this appears to be a relatively recent concept, distinct patterns can be seen in the transition of specialty practice into Advanced Practice Midwifery over the years.

Through the development of the Scope of practice for MPs, some of the barriers that have hindered the midwifery profession can be broken. This scope of practice will provide a regulatory framework for this cadre to enable a clearer understanding for continued evolution of APM in Kenya.



Kenyans have the right to quality, safe, accessible, and affordable Midwifery, sexual and reproductive health care, therefore Advanced Practice Midwifery provides the best solution to these problems.

**Prof. Eunice Ndirangu– Mugo**

CHAIRPERSON

NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA



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- University of Embu
- University of Nairobi

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

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AKU-SONAM	Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery
AP	Advanced Practitioner
APM	Advanced Practice Midwife
APRN	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
BScM	Bachelor of Science Midwifery
BScN	Bachelor of Science Nursing
COP	Communities of Practice
DeKUT	Dedan Kimathi University of Technology
EU	Egerton University
ICM	International Confederation of Midwives
ICT	Information Communication Technology
MAK	Midwives Association of Kenya
MTRH	Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital
MP	Midwifery Practitioner
NCK	Nursing and Midwifery Council of Kenya
PPG	Patient Participation Groups
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UoEm	University of Embu

## SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

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A midwife is a health professional who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is based on the International Council of Midwives' (ICM) Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice and the framework of the ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education and is recognized in the country where it is located; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title 'midwife'; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery (ICM, 2017).


Maternal and perinatal mortality are a significant health concern all over the world especially in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). The risk of a woman in a LMIC dying from a maternal-related cause during her lifetime is about 130 times higher compared to a woman living in a high-income country (WHO, 2018). In Kenya, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) stands at 342/100,000 against the global average of 211/100,000. Evidence suggests that these outcomes can be improved through effective midwifery care. According to the WHO Strategic Directions for Nursing (SDNM) 2021-2025, UHC coverage of midwife-delivered services, for example, could



avert 67% of maternal deaths, 64% of neonatal deaths, and 65% of stillbirths.

A midwife practitioner (MP) uses advanced knowledge and expertise in leadership, clinical decision-making, and management to provide evidence-base care to individuals, families and communities autonomously. Clinical practice is a defining feature of the roles of a Midwife Practitioner and incorporates provision of health services at advanced level, management of health conditions, high degree of autonomy, ability to integrate research into practice, case management, advanced assessment, clinical judgement, decision-making, diagnostic reasoning, and surgical skills.


Globally, the Advanced Practice role was introduced in response to escalating healthcare costs, labor shortage and need for primary care services (Sheer, 2008). To meet changing global population needs and consumer expectations, healthcare systems worldwide are under transformation and face restructuring as they adapt and shift their emphasis in response to the disparate needs for healthcare services. Opportunities emerge for midwives especially the Advanced Practice, to address these demands and unmet needs (Schober et al, 2020). The role of Midwife



Practitioner has been in existence since 1950s and has been embraced in many countries. In developed nations such as the United Kingdom (UK), Ireland, Australia, United States of America among others have fully embraced and regularized APM programme and they have achieved positive impact on health outcomes (Coyne et al., 2016). In Africa countries such as Angola, Sierra Leone, Botswana, South Africa, and Togo have embraced APM (Geyer N. and Christmals D. C, 2020).

Advanced Practice roles contribute to improving access to quality care and thus achieving better care for individuals across the reproductive lifespan, families, and communities at an affordable health care cost (Casey et al., 2017). Midwifery practitioner-led services contribute to improved outcomes comparable to obstetrician/gynecologist-led service in the diverse health care settings. Similarly, patients report high levels of satisfaction with care provided by midwife practitioners (Donald, 2013 & Coyne et al. 2016).

Currently, Kenya is in the process of embracing advance Midwifery Practice in response to the burden of maternal and neonatal morbidities and mortalities and in tandem with the Kenya health policy framework 2014-2030, the Kenyan constitution of 2010, the Universal Health coverage Policy and



sustainable development goals 1 and 3. In the Kenyan context, a midwife practitioner is a healthcare professional trained at masters level, who utilizes advanced knowledge, skills and experience to undertake interventions to promote maternal and neonatal health outcomes including diagnostics and therapeutics in liaison with a multidisciplinary team.

### **PURPOSE OF THE SCOPE**

This scope of practice describes the boundaries of the professional responsibilities regarding procedures, midwifery actions, and processes for which an advanced practice midwife has received the education, training, licensure, and certification to practice.

### **ORGANISATION OF NURSING EDUCATION AT MASTER’S LEVEL IN KENYA**

Midwifery education in Kenya has continued to expand in response to local and global health care needs and challenges. The midwife who has attained a master level education is recognized as an Advanced Practice Midwife and has acquired expert knowledge base complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies. There are currently two pathways of midwifery education at master’s level as depicted in figure 1 below:



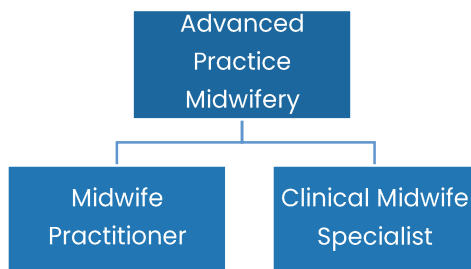


Figure 1: Pathways of midwifery education at master's level in Kenya

## FRAMEWORK OF APM PRACTICE

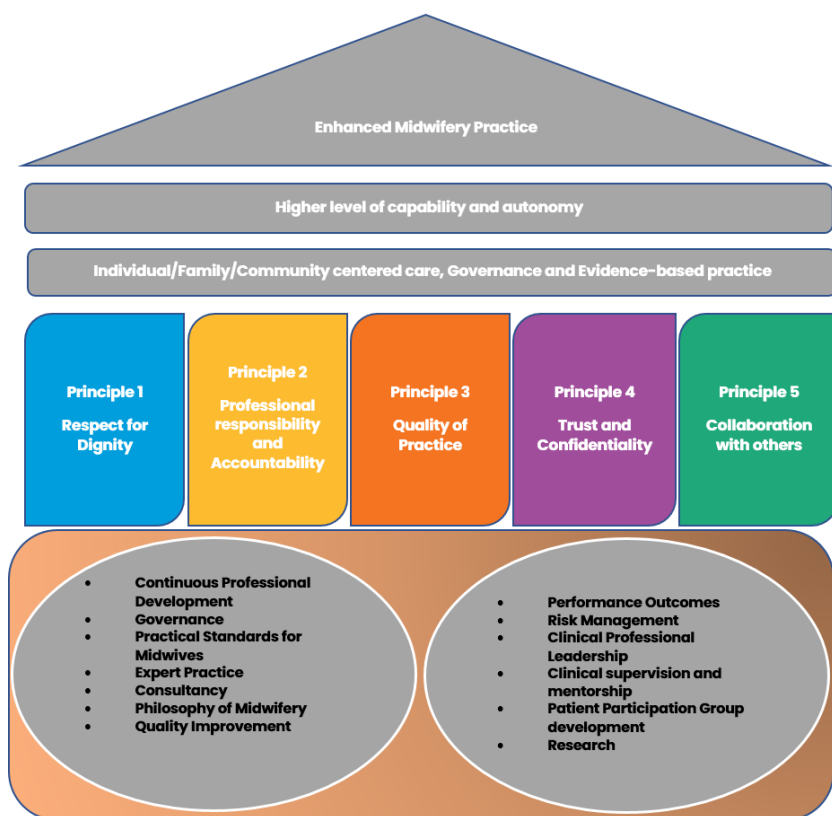


Figure 2: Adopted and modified from Advanced Practice (Midwifery) Standards and Requirements – Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2018)

## SECTION II: SPECIFIC SCOPES

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### **Applicability**

This scope shall be applicable to a midwife practitioner (MP) with advanced training and clinical competencies at a Masters level. The competencies are built on those obtained from Bachelor of Science Nursing (BScN) or Bachelor of Science Midwifery (BScM).

In addition to the scope of the BScN and BScM, the Midwife practitioner shall be able to perform the following functions as stipulated under the four themes outlined.

### **Theme 1: Direct clinical and community practice**

1. Perform health assessment, diagnose, and make clinical decisions.
2. Order, perform and interpret appropriate diagnostic investigations in collaboration with multidisciplinary team.
3. Prescribe and administer therapeutic interventions.
4. Admit, manage collaboratively, and refer to appropriate level of care for continuity of care.
5. Autonomously manage caseloads as per existing guidelines, including evaluating outcomes in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team.


- 
6. Perform obstetric, gynecological, and family planning procedures including Caesarian Section for optimum health outcomes as outlined in appendix 1.
  7. Apply ethical principles and available legal frameworks to demonstrate professionalism in clinical practice.
  8. Provide consultancy services in midwifery as clinical lead in diverse settings.
  9. Provide leadership in Maternal Perinatal Death Surveillance Reviews (MPDSRs).

## **Theme 2: Education**

1. Foster professional development through identification of relevant educational needs in diverse settings.
2. Conduct clinical teaching, supervision and mentorship of midwives and other health care team members.
3. Lead and contribute to monitoring and evaluation strategies which inform clinical education and learning.
4. Participate in the development, implementation, and review of curricula for midwifery and other health-related programs.


## **Theme 3: Research and evidence-based practice.**

1. Conduct and collaborate in research.

- 
2. Disseminate research findings to enhance a body of knowledge in midwifery.
  3. Utilize available research findings to inform evidence-based midwifery practice and innovation.
  4. Participate and make contribution in relevant Communities of Practice (COP) research activities.
  5. Utilize Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for health research.

#### **Theme 4: Clinical leadership and collaborative practice**

1. Provide professional and clinical guidance to multidisciplinary team regarding therapeutic interventions, practice, and service improvement.
2. Provide leadership in health care through initiating and implementation of programs, policies, and guidelines for continuous quality improvement of health outcomes
3. Contribute to health system leadership through development, implementation, and monitoring of organizational performance standards.
4. Advocate for individual, families and communities on issues that affect health and quality of life.
5. Provide leadership in the formulation and implementation of midwifery policies and guidelines.

- 
6. Collaborate with multidisciplinary team in direct clinical and community practice regarding health care outcomes.
  7. Exercise governance in healthcare systems by providing stewardship and oversight over resources with integrity and accountability.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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### **Midwife**


A midwife is a health professional who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is based on the International Council of Midwives' (ICM) Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice and the framework of the ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education and is recognized in the country where it is located; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title 'midwife'; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery (ICM, 2017).

### **Midwifery**

Midwifery is defined as “skilled, knowledgeable and compassionate care for childbearing women, newborn infants and families across the continuum from pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, birth, postpartum and the early weeks of life” (WHO, 2021).

### **Advanced Practice Midwifery (APM)**

Advanced Practice Midwifery, as referred to in this scope, is viewed as advanced interventions in midwifery that influence



healthcare outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. It is based on graduate education and preparation along with the specification of central criteria and core competencies for practice.

### **Advanced Practice**

This is professional practice which involves utilization of advanced knowledge and expertise in leadership, clinical decision-making, and management to provide evidence-base care to individuals, families, and communities independently and autonomously

### **Midwife Practitioner**

This is a specialist who uses advanced knowledge and expertise in midwifery, leadership, clinical decision-making, and management to provide evidence-based care autonomously.

## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF OBSTETRIC AND GYNECOLOGICAL PROCEDURES THAT CAN BE PERFORMED BY AN ADVANCED PRACTICE MIDWIFE–MIDWIFE PRACTITIONER

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1. Tubal ligation
2. Caesarean section
3. Cervical cerclage
4. Dilation and curettage
5. B-Lynch procedure
6. Perimortem C-section
7. Repair of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree perineal tears
8. Repair of cervical tears
9. Marsupialization
10. Assisted births
11. Manual Vacuum Aspiration
12. Pap Smear
13. Screening and gynaecological assessment
14. Mammography
15. Vasectomy



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# Amendment Sheet

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