

Information about Midwifery Students for Clients

Having a student involved in your pregnancy, birth and parenting experiences can be very rewarding. **Not only do you benefit from your student's knowledge, enthusiasm and consideration; you also have** the satisfaction of helping to further the growth of quality midwifery services in Ontario. Many clients feel their care is enhanced by the personal attention a student can provide. Most of our students are studying at McMaster University; however, occasionally we have students from other universities. There are 4 clinical placements in midwifery practices during the 4 year program, described below.

Normal Childbearing (NCB): This is a student's first exposure to hands-on midwifery practice. The focus is normal prenatal, intrapartum & postnatal midwifery care. Students will develop skills in conducting prenatal and postpartum visits. At births, students will provide labour support, monitor clients' and fetus's well-being, and provide hands-on care for deliveries. Students will also develop introductory level skills in care management as a primary care provider, and build a foundation of knowledge including common interventions and variations of normal. Your student will gradually take more responsibility for management decisions, beginning to "take pages" and review concerns with your midwife. An NCB student is always under the supervision of their preceptor. By completion, students will be able to provide *primary care in normal situations* throughout the childbearing cycle.

Following the NCB placement, your student **has completed** several additional clinical placements, including an obstetric, labour & delivery unit, special care nursery, breastfeeding support, postpartum nursing, and elective community placements. Their final year is spent at one midwifery practice (ideally)!

Complications and Consultations (C & C): The focus is the recognition and management of conditions that require consultation. The student increasingly provides independent midwifery care throughout the childbearing cycle. The student assumes responsibility for the management of care in the *lead role in situations of normal* and with *growing confidence and competence in variations of normal/situations leading to consultation*. The student also detects and assists in urgent and emergency situations when they arise. At this level, your student may conduct some of your appointments independently with their preceptor nearby and attend one home postpartum visit alone; however, all student decisions and actions are overseen and reviewed by their preceptor.

Maternal & Newborn Pathology (MNP): The focus is on midwifery management including recognition and understanding of abnormal situations, for both clients and newborns. During this placement, your student will *provide increasingly independent care and will initiate consultations when appropriate*. A student may act as one of two midwives ie. the second/backup midwife at a hospital birth. The student may conduct up to 2 postpartum visits independently **{after day 3}**. Your student has been trained to handle emergency situations and will do so as they arise, under supervision of their preceptor.

Clerkship: Your student is expected to act as your primary or second/backup midwife in ALL aspects of midwifery care, including emergency situations, at both home and hospital births. Your student will *manage your care*, including independent prenatal and postpartum visits, with appropriate supervision by their preceptor.

Your student is: _____	Level: _____
She/he will be with us from _____ to _____	