

## THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF A REGISTERED MIDWIFE

The scope of practice of a registered midwife shall entail the following scientifically based acts or procedures which apply to the practice of midwifery and which relate to the mother and child in the course of pregnancy, labour and the puerperium:

1. The diagnosing of a health need and the facilitation of the attainment of optimum physical and mental health for the mother and child by the prescribing, provision and execution of a midwifery regimen, or where necessary, referral to a registered person or by obtaining the assistance of a registered person, as the case may be;
2. The execution of a programme of treatment or medication prescribed by a registered person;
3. The prevention of disease relating to pregnancy, labour and the puerperium and the promotion of health and family planning by teaching and counseling individuals, families and groups of persons, by implementation of family planning skills and by monitoring the health status of the mother and child;
4. The monitoring of:  
The progress of pregnancy, labour and the puerperium:
  - the vital signs of the mother and child;
  - the reaction of the mother and child to disease conditions, trauma, stress, anxiety, medication and treatment
5. The prevention of complications relating to pregnancy, labour and the puerperium including:
  - the performance of an episiotomy
  - the suturing of first and second degree tears or an episiotomy
  - the administration of a local anaesthetic
6. The administration of medicine to the mother or child;
7. The prescribing, promotion or maintenance of hygiene, physical comfort and reassurance of the mother and child;
8. The promotion of exercise, including ante-natal and post-natal exercises, rest and sleep;
9. The facilitation of body mechanics and the prevention of bodily deformities in the execution of the midwifery regimen;
10. The supervision over and maintenance of a supply of oxygen to the mother and child;
11. The supervision over and maintenance of fluid, electrolyte and acid base balance of the mother and child;
12. The facilitation of the healing of wounds, the protection of the skin and the maintenance of sensory functions in the mother and child;
13. The facilitation of the maintenance of bodily regulatory mechanisms and functions in the mother and child;
14. The facilitation, maintenance and, where necessary, the improvement of the nutritional status of the mother and child;
15. The promotion of breastfeeding;
16. The supervision over and maintenance of elimination by the mother and child;
17. The facilitation of communication by and with the mother and father or family in the execution of the midwifery regimen;
18. The establishment and maintenance, in the execution of the midwifery regimen, of an environment in which the physical and mental health of mother and child is promoted;
19. Preparation for and assistance with operative, diagnostic and therapeutic acts for the mother and child;
20. The co-ordination of the health care regimens provided for the mother and child by other categories of health personnel;
21. The provision of effective advocacy to enable the mother and child to obtain the health care they need;
22. Care of the dying patient and a recently deceased patient within the execution of the midwifery regimen.