International Confederation of Midwives’
Model Curriculum Outlines for
Professional Midwifery Education

ICM Resource Packet #3
Key Resources Available for Midwifery Education

Introduction

The 21st century has brought an abundance of information to the global community via the World Wide Web. Access to such information is growing, whether through computers or cell phones. However, ICM recognizes that there are still areas of the world where internet access is limited or non-existent at the present time. This resource packet depends primarily on internet access with the intent to work with education programmes throughout the world to gain access. One paper copy of each of the core ICM documents is included in this packet. If more paper copies of these important ICM learning resources are needed, they will be compiled by the ICM Education Standing Committee and provided by request through the ICM headquarters for a nominal charge. Some of the books and articles suggested may also have a web interface, indicated by a ‘doi’ number.

The ICM Education Standing Committee (ESC) is the primary repository or source of current information on midwifery education and the new Global Standards for Midwifery Education (2010) and the updated Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (2010). In 2008 following the Glasgow Triennial Congress, the ESC created a midwifery education listserv.
http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/midwifery-reprohealtheducation.html The aim of this listserv is to create an international forum for discussion on midwifery, reproductive and women’s health education. The listserv provides an electronic place to facilitate information sharing (e.g., workshops, seminars, conferences and new issues in education) and to promote collaboration and networking for all people working in midwifery and reproductive health education. To join the list, go to the web page above fill in the needed information.
The ICM Education Standing Committee is also gathering midwifery education resources that will soon be posted on the ICM website at www.internationalmidwives.org.

There are some places that midwifery educators in low resource countries may wish to investigate for the purchase of selected midwifery texts or other teaching materials. TALC-Teaching Aids at Low Cost at www.talcuk.org offers a range of midwifery texts in English, Spanish and French, along with books on anatomy, epidemiology, tropical diseases, and other science foundations of midwifery practice and teaching aids.

**Web-based Resources**

**International Confederation of Midwives (ICM)**

www.internationalmidwives.org  Search ‘core documents’

ICM Definition of the Midwife (2011)
ICM Philosophy and Model of Care (2008)
ICM Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (2010)
ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education (2010): Companion guidelines
ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Regulation (2011)
ICM Glossary of Terms – June 2011

Position statements relating to midwifery scope of practice, education, regulation

**World Health Organization (WHO)**

Visit the WHO website at www.who.int  Search under “Health Topics” and click on topics such as ‘midwifery’ to see what is being done by WHO. Then click on ‘Programmes and Projects’, then Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and then ‘document centre’ followed by ‘midwifery’ to find the WHO Strengthening Midwifery Toolkit (2011), along with previous documents such as the WHO/ICM Midwifery modules and the Global Standards for the initial education of professional
nurses and midwives (2009).

Returning to “Health topics” you can click on ‘Pregnancy’ where you can locate Making Pregnancy Safer documents from the ‘document centre’ listing on left side of screen. Clicking on “Programmes and Projects” will bring up access to the Reproductive Health Library (RHL) with a variety of online resources for care during the reproductive years, including childbirth. You can also locate the WHO reproductive health competencies.

WHO has also published guidelines for Basic and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care, and more recently added Neonatal care (BEmONC). Guidelines for prevention and management of postpartum haemorrhage and pre-eclampsia/eclampsia are also available online.

Midwifery educators in low resource countries with WHO offices can visit these offices to obtain such resources. WHO country offices may also provide grants to education programmes to purchase teaching materials, including texts and plastic or cloth models.

**Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH)**

WHO is the host of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), a global advocacy group for improving the health of women, newborns and children, especially in resource poor nations. The website at [www.who.int/pmnch/en](http://www.who.int/pmnch/en) includes a variety of information on partner activities. Visit the PMNCH knowledge portal that includes Knowledge Summaries that synthesize the scientific evidence in short, user-friendly format to inform MNC policy and practice. Of special interest to midwifery education is Knowledge Summary #14: Save Lives: Invest in Midwives at [http://portal.pmnch.org/knowledge-summaries/ks14](http://portal.pmnch.org/knowledge-summaries/ks14)

**United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef)**

Unicef is an international organization dedicated to the health and well-being of children from birth through adolescence. As noted on their website, About UNICEF: Who are we, “UNICEF is the driving force that helps build a world where the rights of every child are realized. We have the global
authority to influence decision-makers, and the variety of partners at grassroots level turn the most innovative ideas into reality.” www.unicef.org

Unicef recognizes the importance of healthy pregnancies contributing to healthy babies, and therefore is interested in quality midwifery care.

Unicef offices in low resource countries can provide resources at country level on breastfeeding and immunization programmes, among others. When visiting the website, go to “Focus areas” and click on ‘Mothers & Babies’ or other areas such as ‘Nutrition’.

**United Nations Fund for Population Advancement (UNFPA)**

UNFPA is an international organization dedicated to reproductive health, women’s rights, and reduction of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. It works in partnership with many agencies, including the International Confederation of Midwives. The website includes information on many related topics. To find the specific information related to midwives, begin on the home page at www.unfpa.org and then click on Reproductive Health along left side of screen, then click on Safe Motherhood, followed by clicking on Midwives. This site includes reports, updated resource material, and videos exploring the need for and roles of midwives in the world.

Midwifery educators in low resource countries can visit the UNFPA country office to obtain many of the resources found on the website.

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

This is the U.S. foreign aid agency with interest in a variety of health topics, Visit the website at www.usaid.gov and clip on Our Work, then Health, then Maternal Child, then Maternal Health to view some of resources and activities sponsored by this agency. One of their newest projects is Helping Babies Breathe (HBB).

USAID partnered with IntraHealth International in 2007 to publish the following manual:

**USAID Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)**

MCHIP, funded through USAID, provides a website at www.mchip.net that has many electronic references for care during childbearing and family planning as well as health professional education. Click on “Tools & Resources” and then look under Topics/subtypes. Look under ‘Browse related links’ to explore the various partnerships they are involved in that focus on maternal and newborn health. Clicking on any one of these related links takes you directly to that website where further resources are located.

**K4Health (Knowledge for Health)**

www.k4health.org After exploring the home page for the variety of resources this site offers, click on “e toolkits’ and “elearning” to locate a variety of learning and teaching resources related to childbearing and reproductive health. For example, the postpartum haemorrhage toolkit has a video demonstrating active management of the third stage of labour (AMTSL).

Under www.k4health.org/toolkits/pse click on the Pre-service Education Program Roadmap and you will find the seven (7) steps for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating a pre-service education program focused on health workers needed to provide maternal and newborn health care. This site also has an extensive electronic library of resources.

**Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University**

Jhpiego has a long history of producing health-oriented training materials, including the preparation of health professionals. Peruse the website as www.jhpiego.org and follow link to Training Materials found under Resources.
Review of Midwifery Curricula Online

There are many pre-service midwifery education programmes throughout the world that use a website to inform potential candidates and regulatory bodies of what they include in their midwifery curriculum, including a description of the content of the courses. Examples include:

Department of Midwifery at Bastyr University in Seattle, Washington that offers a 3-year direct entry midwifery programme. [http://www.seattlemidwifery.org/midwifery-education/curriculum-overview](http://www.seattlemidwifery.org/midwifery-education/curriculum-overview)

University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing master’s programme in midwifery post-nursing at: [http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/academic_programs/grad/masters/program_detail.asp?prid=10](http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/academic_programs/grad/masters/program_detail.asp?prid=10)

Suggested Books & Articles

Resources for Adult Learning

8. Murphy C, Viadro C. Applying the Learning for Performance approach. Legacy Series 5: The Capacity Project, September 2009. PDF file can be downloaded from www.capacityproject.org under Publications and Resources. The full manual can also be downloaded from this site.

Resources for midwifery education (many texts available from TALC: www.talcuk.org)


Resources for faculty development

1. See Resource packet #4 for an overview.

8. Browse websites above for teaching strategies, especially K4Health, MCHIP, WHO Midwifery Toolkit (2011). May also find websites that focus on teaching health professionals, such as the Teaching and Learning Institute at http://www2.hud.ac.uk/tali/about.php

Examples of references that support teaching with summary of content/evidence


   This article highlights the importance of the role of mentor/preceptor and discusses some of the challenges faced by mentors/facilitators in their inter-professional roles. It identifies areas in which mentors/preceptors can be supported in the development of their didactic skills and assessment skills. Preceptors have very little inter-professional recognition. It suggests the development of standards for mentoring of students within the health care professions.


   This qualitative, grounded theory approach studied the influence of midwifery role models on roles that students subsequently adapt. Students learn to adapt to changing culture by adapting roles accordingly. Students emulate the midwives with whom they work. Midwives functioning as mentors need to pay attention to their own role whilst working with students.


   Student midwives participated in problem-based learning scenario’s together with students of medicine and nursing. This was with the aim of fostering collaborative working and promoting and enriching learning experiences of students. Students experienced this method as a ‘safe’ way of developing their future roles. It helped students in improving attitudes to collaborative working and stimulated both learning and reflection.


   Delivery of care is set against the changing context of social and political change. Midwifery training needs must account for this in terms of practice learning environment and strategic partners in further and higher education. World health Midwives: an integrated approach to
health care delivery. Education in practice is at the centre of developing both the current and the future workforce.

‘communities of learning’: this term extends to both novice midwives, trained midwives who wish to develop further, midwifery teachers etc.


Denis Walsh points out that the attitudes and beliefs of midwives around issues in midwifery care impact on midwives’ practice. It is important for midwives to be aware of this in their dealings with others (students, women etc).

Resources for teaching aids

1. Country midwifery and/or nursing associations may have teaching aids on their websites or in their local offices. Often members of the association will know where to purchase teaching models, audio-visual aids, or textbooks.

2. Websites such as Birth International at www.birthinternational.com in Australia or Childbirth Graphics at www.childbirthgraphics.com offer products that midwifery teachers may find useful and midwifery students may find useful in teaching childbirth education classes.

3. UNFPA Zimbabwe gifted teaching resources and models to 18 midwifery schools in the country. Other international agencies and midwifery associations in high resource countries also make such gifts, often corresponding to May 5th International Day of the Midwife.

4. Laerdal company has low-cost equipment for newborn care and resuscitation.

5. Many teaching aids can be constructed by individual teachers, included models, flipcharts, and posters. Creativity is encouraged to have low cost teaching aids. Examples of teaching aids that are helpful in the practical laboratory for skills development include:

   ✓ A knitted uterus that includes a 2-inch cuff to illustrate cervix. Can place rubber ball or rubber doll inside to illustrate effacement and dilation.

   ✓ A model of a female pelvis with rubber or cloth doll to illustrate anatomical landmarks and mechanisms of labour with vertex or breech presentation

   ✓ 4x4 inch foam rubber to practice episiotomy or laceration repair (can also use chicken breast)
Needle holders, pick-up forceps, cord clamps, scissors (straight & curved) that are no longer useful (being discarded) in institutional settings
Discarded suture packets from operating room that were no longer sterile
IUD models for practicing insertion and removal (often provided by makers of IUD)
Cloth baby doll with placenta and cord (snap on cord to baby’s navel)
Lactating breast model (cloth) to demonstrate anatomy or proper placement of infant on nipple
Pelvic model to practice speculum insertion
Pinard stethoscopes to listen to fetal heart rate and rhythm

Examples of teaching aids that are helpful in learning theory include (can be drawn):

Poster illustrating menstrual cycle
Poster illustrating fetal growth and development by weeks’ gestation within female torso so that anatomical changes in pregnant woman are visible
Flipchart on breastfeeding (how to)
Poster illustrating breast self-examination
Gestational wheel (usually given free by company that makes products for pregnant women
Poster illustrating female and male anatomy related to reproduction