

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER, DECEMBER 2010

COURSE NAME: ETHOS AND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN MIDWIFERY

COURSE CODE: MID 104

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

TOTAL MARKS: 75 MARKS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN SECTION A
- ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS OF YOUR CHOICE IN SECTION B
- FIGURES IN BRACKETS INDICATE MARKS ALLOCATED TO EACH OR PART OF THE QUESTION
- ANSWER EACH QUESTION ON A NEW PAGE
- THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION IS GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR

SECTION A

Answer all questions in this section.

Question 1

Select the most appropriate response in each of the following questions. Selected responses should be indicated in the answer sheet e.g. 1.3 e

1.1 Many midwives died in the Middle Ages because:

- a. Midwifery had been outlawed by the doctors which saw no new midwives entering the profession, leaving the old midwives to die out with knowledge
- b. The witch hunt frenzy led to the killing of many women including numerous midwives
- c. Midwives were illiterate at the time
- d. None of the above

1.2 The following is the main reason why midwifery was outlawed in the mid 19th century;

- a. Advances in medical science related to childbirth saw birth being viewed as a medical condition necessitating medical intervention
- b. Birth as an experience normally shared by a community of women became a medical event shared by a woman and her doctor
- c. The medical profession called for an abolition of midwifery practice and home births in favour of obstetrics and a hospital birth
- d. None of the above

- 1.3 The perspective of cultural safety demands that;
- a. Focus shifts from others to the midwife's own culture.
 - b. Clients need to be cared for regardless of their culture, not regardless of it
 - c. Midwife reflects on own cultural identity and recognize the impact of own culture on practice
 - d. All of the above

1.4 Which of the following statements is true about cultural safety?

- a. Effective midwifery practice of a client from a culture different from that of the midwife is determined by that person or family.
- b. Cultural safety promotes assimilation of clients from different cultures into the culture of midwifery providers
- c. The right relationship is extrinsic to enable the practice of cultural safety
- d. Safe cultural practice embodies all actions which disempowers or demeans the cultural identity of an individual.

1.5 Which of the following are goals of cultural safety?

- a. The midwife is to change attitude towards cultures of others through reflection of own self
- b. The midwife comprehends that care can only be defined as culturally safe by the beneficiaries of care.
- c. Both A and B above.
- d. None of the above

1.6 All of the following health care workers do not function in the same paradigm in maternity care?

- a. General medical practitioners and midwives
- b. Doulas and traditional birth attendants
- c. Traditional birth attendants and mother craft nurses
- d. Obstetricians and mother craft nurses

1.7 The following statements reflect the philosophies of midwifery except one. Which one is it?

- a. Women centred care supports the childbearing women's right to self-determination
- b. Evidence based practice is not synonymous with best practice
- c. Going through pregnancy and birth is natural for the large majority of women
- d. The midwife remains the expert in the midwifery relationship and has the right to autonomously make decisions relating to the pregnancy on behalf of the woman

Three midwives in Nhlngano decided to work together to look after a small group of pregnant women, as an option for childbearing women offered by the local maternity hospital in Nhlngano. These women would be seen by all three midwives at different stages in the pregnancy in a bid to promote continuity of care giver. Question 1.8 to 1.10 relate to this scenario.

1.8 Which model of midwifery care best describes this type of care?

- a. Case load midwifery
- b. Shared care
- c. Team midwifery
- d. Independent midwifery

1.9 Which of the following is usually an issue regarding this model of care?

- a. Fragmentation of care
- b. Indemnity insurance
- c. Client satisfaction
- d. None of the above

- 1.10 One of the following statements is not true about this midwifery model of care. Identify it.
- a. It facilitates flexibility to negotiate the care pathway between the midwives and childbearing women
 - b. Women are assured of access to a midwife at any stage of the pregnancy and at any time of the day
 - c. Midwives enjoy the close relationships with women that result from this model of care.
 - d. Midwives are least in control over their work schedule or hours at work in this model of care.
- 1.11 Identify the model of midwifery care that is best suited for providing a conducive environment to ensure fulfilment of all the philosophies of midwifery;
- a. Team midwifery
 - b. Independent midwifery
 - c. Case load midwifery
 - d. All of the above
- 1.12 Which of the following poses the greatest legal threat to the survival of independent midwifery?
- a. The persistence of the medicalisation of birth
 - b. Unavailability of indemnity insurance
 - c. Empowerment of women to fully understand their rights
 - d. Poor client satisfaction associated with this model of care.

Musa, a midwife, assumes duty alone in a busy maternity ward in one of the rural referral hospitals of the country. During the shift, Musa sees to four emergency caesarean section clients, has 7 normal births, and four fresh admissions into the labour ward from outpatients. At the end of his shift, Musa, during a vital signs check on all in-clients, Musa discovers an 18 year old pregnant primigravida dead on her bed. Musa notices that

the client was in active labour at 4 cm dilation when he assumed duty according to her records. Musa did not manage to see to the client altogether during the shift.

Question 1.13 to 1.18 relate to this scenario

1.13 All of the following are some of the key ethical and legal principles that Musa will have to contend with in this case, except one. Which one is it?

- a. Violation of the client's right to care
- b. Failure to do a job that Musa was hired for, which is to attend to all women in the maternity ward
- c. Proving remarkable professional skill of multi-tasking
- d. Violation of the ethical principles of non-maleficence, beneficence, and justice

1.14 Which of the following statements can work to protect Musa from the hands of the law?

- a. The midwife's right to refuse care to a client with whom no midwifery relationship has been established
- b. The midwife's right to a professional conscience
- c. The midwife's right to self-determination
- d. Musa's shift had been too busy to make it possible for him to see clients committed under his care

1.15. What would have been the best step for Musa to make upon discovery of the demise of the client and her unborn baby?

- a. Immediately inform the hospital administration of the maternal death and then document
- b. Cease giving all care to the dead client including the vital signs. After all, Musa did not see the client at all alive and therefore should not start now
- c. Inform the relatives and call the morgue
- d. Pretend not to have seen that there is a dead client at all and handover to the next shift to sort it out.

Nothando is hired in a maternity hospital as a midwife. On her first day of work, Nothando learns that giving routine enemas to all clients in labour is a policy in the hospital. Nothando is required to give enemas to all her clients in the labour ward of that shift. Question 1.16 to 1.20 relate to this scenario

1.16 Select the statement that best that would depict professional practice of Nothando if she followed it;

- a. Nothando's is bound by the terms and references of the employer. Therefore Nothando must give clients routine enemas without question.
- b. Nothando has a professional obligation to advocate for the rights of clients, therefore she should not give routine enemas prescribed in the hospital policy.
- c. Nothando should engage the hospital management, alerting them on the empirical evidence regarding this practice.
- d. Nothando should inform all clients of their right to refuse care that is not scientific evidence based so that they can tell off hospital doctors and staff.

1.17 The practice of routine administration of enemas is in violation of which one of the following client rights?

- a. client's right to self determination
- b. Client's right to care as per the dictates of the hospital policies
- c. Client's right to care and treatment during labour
- d. Client's right to not to be abandoned by the midwife during care

1.18 Midwifery professional obligations that Nothando has in this scenario include;

- a. The responsibility to implement all employer procedures and policies to the letter regardless of whether Nothando believes in them or not
- b. The responsibility to carry our doctors orders without question when working in the hospital

- c. The responsibility to provide complete, accurate, and relevant information in to a client in order to make informed choices regarding health care.
- d. The responsibility to assist others who wish to become midwives by sharing skills and knowledge as well as accurately evaluating their skills and competence.

1.19 If Nothando decided not to dispense the routine enemas as per the hospital protocol, which of the following statements would be in her defence?

- a. The midwife's right to refuse care to a client with whom no midwifery relationship has been established.
- b. Nothando's right of professional conscience
- c. Nothando's right to discharge clients from care, after adequate referral
- d. Nothando's right to autonomous practice

1.20 If Nothando went ahead and gave routine enemas to all clients in labour during her shift, which of the following statements would condemn such practice?

- a. The midwife's right to self determination
- b. The client's right to care
- c. The client's right to receive care that is consistent with current scientific evidence
- d. None of the above

Dennis is an experienced midwife who has recently joined a Catholic maternal and child health clinic which does not offer any form of family planning services due to religious beliefs. During work at the clinic, Dennis comes across a 23 year old pregnant woman of 37 weeks gestation, who is carrying her fourth child. All three previous pregnancies were by caesarean section. Dennis is concerned that the woman may have a sixth pregnancy, which places her life and that of the baby at risk. Questions 1.21 to 1.25 relate to this scenario.

1.21 Which of the following statements would be the best action for Dennis to take in this situation?

- a. Dennis should disregard clinic protocols and give the woman family planning services as her life and that of the unborn baby is now in danger.
- b. Dennis should engage the clinic administration in a meeting to persuade them to offer this woman some family planning services.
- c. Dennis should give the woman complete accurate and relevant information regarding family planning so that she can make an informed decision.
- d. Dennis should immediately refer the woman to another health facility that has no restrictions on dispensing all aspects of maternity care, after alerting the woman on the gravity of her condition.

1.22 Should Dennis decide to do nothing about this woman's condition, which of the following statements would condemn his decision?

- a. In all his dealings with clients, Dennis should do no harm
- b. Dennis has a right to self-determination
- c. Dennis should observe justice in all dealings with his clients
- d. Dennis has right to autonomous practice as a midwifery professional

1.23 If Dennis were to be prosecuted by his employer for offering family planning services at the clinic whilst aware that it is against clinic policies, which of the following would be his strongest defence?

- a. The woman has a right to make informed choices with access to all relevant information upon which to base the decision.
- b. The woman's right to accept or refuse care/ treatment
- c. Omission to offer a service whilst aware that this will be to the detriment of the client is tantamount to maleficence
- d. None of the above

1.24 Which of the following is not true about the ethical principles that would seek to protect the wellbeing of the woman?

- a. All care dispensed to this woman should seek to uphold the wellbeing of the woman in all aspects

- b. Dennis has an obligation to ensure fidelity whilst giving the woman midwifery care
- c. Dennis is accountable first to the woman, and then to his employer
- d. Dennis's professional responsibility to maintain the woman's privacy means that the employer does not have to know about the specific type of care given to the woman

1.25 If Dennis were to secretly offer some type of family planning service but deliberately omitted documenting it on the clinical records to avoid getting in trouble with his employer, which of the following professional obligations would Dennis be in violation of?

- a. The responsibility to accurately document all relevant client information, including midwifery care dispensed to the client
- b. The duty to care for all women equally without segregation or discrimination
- c. The duty to offer midwifery care that is congruent with current scientific evidence
- d. None of the above

(25 marks)

SECTION B

Question 2

Lomalangeni is a practising midwife that works in a government hospital in town about 30kms from her rural residence. Her pregnant neighbour, who is having a baby for the first time, discloses that she is planning a home birth. The neighbour asks Lomalangeni to assist her to attend to her during the birth of her baby at home.

2.1 What should Lomalangeni consider before she accepts or declines to support her friend through the labour at home? **(20marks)**

2.2 Assuming that Lomalangeni advised her neighbour against having a home birth, what should be Lomalangeni's response if her neighbour calls her suddenly for an imminent birth whilst Lomalangeni is within reach in the rural village?

(5 marks)

Question 3

A midwife works in a women's wellness clinic that offers comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care in a country where abortion is legal. This midwife has strong personal beliefs against the termination of pregnancy influenced by his cultural and religious values. One day, a woman with a twenty six week old pregnancy presents herself for a pre-booked elective abortion at the clinic. The midwife on duty is expected to assist in the procedure as part of the reproductive health care offered by the clinic in which the midwife is employed.

3.1 From an ethical perspective, what would be the argument(s) of the midwife should he resolve not to attend to the woman or assist in the procedure? Justify them. **(5 marks)**

3.2 Discuss the ethical arguments that are for and against abortion. **(20 marks)**

Question 4

Penelope works in a clinic where screening for maternal and foetal abnormalities is mandatory during pregnancy is mandatory.

4.1 Discuss the ethical issues surrounding mandatory screening in pregnancy that Penelope will have to contend with. **(25 marks)**