

MACHP Career Profile

Registered Midwife

Submitted by
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Midwives

A midwife is a person who has completed a midwifery educational programme and has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice as a midwife. The midwife is recognized as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women and families to give necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwives own responsibility, and to provide care for the newborn infant. This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in the mother and child, the accessing of medical care or other appropriate assistance and the carrying out of emergency measures. The midwife has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for the women, but also for the family and the community. This work involves antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and extends to women's health, sexual/reproductive health and child care. A midwife may practice in a variety of settings including home and hospital.

Responsibilities:

- Facilitate women's informed decision-making
- Monitoring progress and providing appropriate care of pregnancy, birth and postpartum for both women and baby
- Order lab tests and other diagnostic tests and prescribe medications within the midwife's scope of practice
- Refers to and collaborates with other care providers as necessary
- Conduct normal births in a variety of settings and implement emergency procedures as necessary
- Perform a full physical assessment of the women and newborn babies
- Promote and support breast feeding
- Community outreach and education
- On call rota-providing 24 hour cover to all client's, seven days a week

Qualifications:

- Bachelor or Science Degree in Midwifery or formal training in midwifery.
- Apprenticeship training in programme approved by the the College of Midwives of Manitoba, followed by indepth assessment and examination process from the College of Midwives prior to registration
- Adult resuscitation and neonatal resuscitation and intubation qualification and annual recertification.

Salary and Working Conditions:

- Salary ranges from \$62,000 to \$79,800 depending on experience and seniority
- Midwives working in the community setting can work a variety of hours depending upon the amount of births occurring

to the client base needing care. Midwives are salaried for 8 hours a day 5 days a week, however working hours often exceed this and overtime hours can be numerous. At this time, overtime is not remunerated financially and midwives can claim time owing for the hours worked over the required amount (if time allows).



Qualities Needed to be a Midwife:

- Ability to work autonomously
- Be diplomatic when dealing with other professionals in the workplace
- Excellent communication and listening skills
- Ability to formulate care in partnership with the women and family
- Provide information that will help women and family to make informed choices
- Work collaboratively with other care providers
- An ability to access and interpret up-to-date research
- Commitment to excellence in maternal and newborn care
- Physically fit with an ability to cope with stressful situations
- Ability to make decisions quickly and appropriate to the situation
- Be able to adapt to different working environment, eg community, hospital and home
- Willing to accept responsibility to educate nursing, midwifery and medical students
- Be able to respond to requests for public speaking on midwifery.