Examination of the Newborn for Midwives
Module Code NUR3200

Credits / Level of Study
30 credits / Level 6

Module Aims
This module aims to prepare midwives to undertake the complete physical examination of the healthy newborn between 37-42 completed gestational weeks. The rationale for the neonatal examination conducted within the first 24 hours and days after delivery will be to detect any signs of acute illness or abnormalities, to allow prompt diagnosis and intervention without which many of the acute conditions which afflict newborn babies can lead to serious consequences.

The expanding role of the midwife as the lead professional is constantly changing requiring midwives to develop new skills and competencies, which necessitate appropriate education. This module seeks to develop such skills, underpinned by a sound knowledge base to support clinical practice. New skills will enhance independent and autonomous practice whilst improving continuity of care and facilitate more timely discharge of babies from the postnatal area, reducing paediatric workload. In addition such a role will enable birth at home to be easily facilitated where the GP has not been contacted to provide neonatal examination.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of this module the student should be able to:

- Assess the physiological adaptation of each system in the fetus-neonate and relate these to a competent examination of the newborn and critically evaluate the relevant research studies to underpin best practice in the care of the newborn and demonstrate systematic newborn assessment and physical examinations within clinical settings.

- Critically evaluate the evidence and research base of new approaches to judgement and decision-making in relation to risk factors in the care of the newborn, applying skills of systematic and holistic assessment of undifferentiated newborn problems to make accurate diagnoses, safe management plans and appropriate referrals.

- Analyse and evaluate contemporary issues in the field of neonatology using appropriate evidence to determine the involvement of the multidisciplinary team, through referral to a paediatrician and the need for any urgent intervention through locally agreed channels.

- Consider critically the ethical, legal and moral dilemmas parents may encounter when faced with a deviation from the normal in the newborn and to improve skills of the midwife in breaking bad news using effective communication skills.

- Critically evaluate and reflect on own learning and practice as a means of improving care for newborn babies, acting autonomously, using skills acquired, within guidelines of supervision.

Pre-requisites of Study
- Registered Midwife with at least one year post registration experience
- Ability to study at Level 6

Delivery of Module
Teaching will be by interactive lectures/discussions/seminar presentations and practical experience.

Students will be enrolled through VLE for blended learning using e-learning technology.

Assessment
1) A portfolio of evidence to demonstrate a record of learning in and through practice which should demonstrate the achievement of the module learning outcomes. It will take nine months to complete the practice component. - Word limit for the portfolio is 7000 words. Pass/Fail will be awarded for the practical assessments.

2) A case study – Word Limit for the case study is 3000 words (100% of the module mark)

Key Information

Study Dates
November 2019: 4, 11, 14, 19, 20

*Please check our website to ensure that there have been no revisions to the course dates listed

Location
University of Surrey

Cost
£1400.00

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How to Apply
Application forms can be printed from our website