

# Future midwife: transforming midwifery care for everyone

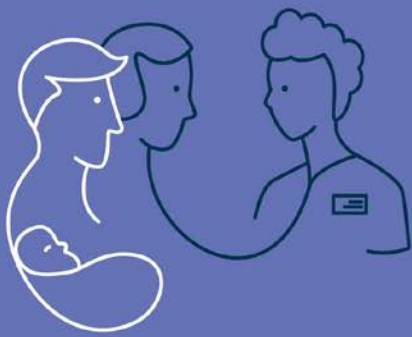
## Background

- 1 We've developed new future midwife standards: [Standards of proficiency for midwives](#) and [Standards for pre-registration midwifery programmes](#). These standards set out what midwives need to know, and be able to do, to register with us and practise as a midwife in the UK.
- 2 Professors Mary Renfrew and Gwendolen Bradshaw led the development of our new standards.
- 3 The standards reflect best current evidence and are based on the Quality Maternal and Newborn Care Framework (QMNC), as published in [The Lancet series on midwifery \(2014\)](#).
- 4 Between February and May 2019 we held a full public consultation and carried out user testing of the standards. The consultation received over 1,600 responses in total, with a significant number of responses from the public. The survey responses were analysed by an independent research company and there were areas where some respondents felt the standards needed strengthening or further clarification.
- 5 In finalising these standards we've worked in partnership with midwives, women, families, student midwives, educators, employers, other health and social care professions, advocacy groups and a range of representative organisations.

## What's in the new standards?

- 6 The standards are presented as six domains: 1. Being an accountable and autonomous, professional midwife; 2. Safe and effective midwifery care: promoting and providing continuity of care and carer; 3. Universal care for all women and newborn infants; 4. Additional care for women, newborn infants and families with complications; 5. Promoting excellence: the midwife as colleague, scholar and leader; 6 The midwife as a skilled practitioner (which includes all the domain skills)





7 The following points are emphasised throughout the standards

- The needs, views, preferences and decisions of women and the needs of babies
- The importance of kindness, compassion, understanding and empathy
- The midwife's role in working with women to optimise normal physiological processes
- The midwife's role in supporting a woman's mental health and wellbeing, and in preventing, anticipating, and responding effectively to their additional care needs if they arise
- The midwife's role in being best placed to recognise any deviation from normal processes and to act accordingly
- Public health, well-being, mental health and recognising individual women's social circumstances and ensuring her partner feels involved
- The role of the midwife in creating an environment that is safe, respectful, kind, nurturing and empowering in all settings and for a diverse population
- Breast feeding and supporting the woman's feeding preferences

8 The standards are outcome focused, giving approved education institutions and their practice learning partners the flexibility to design and deliver midwifery programmes with creativity and innovation to meet the changing needs of women and families over the next 10 years.

## Next steps

9 We will continue to work closely with stakeholders in practice and education settings across the UK to support the successful implementation of the future midwife standards.

10 The first approved education institutions to deliver programmes based on our new standards will commence in September 2020, with the standards being fully implemented by September 2022.

## For more information and any questions

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