**Maternity Support Worker Competency, Education and Career Development Framework Role Descriptors**

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| Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| *People at level 2 require basic factual knowledge of a field of work. They may carry out clinical, technical, scientific, or administrative duties according to established protocols or procedures, or systems of work.* | *People at level 3 require knowledge of facts, principles, processes, and general concepts in a field of work. They may carry out a wider range of duties than the person working at level 2, and will have more responsibility, with guidance and supervision available when needed. They will contribute to service development and are responsible for self-development.* | *People at level 4 require factual and theoretical knowledge in broad contexts within a field of work. Work is guided by standard operating procedures, protocols, or systems of work, but the worker makes judgements, plans activities, contributes to service development and demonstrates self- development. They may have responsibility for supervision of some staff.* |

Using these definitions, the roles undertaken by MSWs have been categorised as the following:

**General**

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| Prepare (including cleaning) the clinical areas. | Input and retrieve data into and from computer systems, for example, test results, contact details and discharge information.  |  |
| Clean, fill and maintain birthing pool to correct temperatures. | Organise and set up antenatal and postnatal classes and clinics. |  |
| Management of blood spillages. | Contribute to midwife-led antenatal and postnatal classes. |  |
| Clean and make beds. | Assist midwives and doctors with instrumental deliveries, such as laying up trolleys, opening packs, gathering equipment and disposal of equipment. |  |
| Re-stock and order equipment. |  |  |
| Sterilise feeding equipment. |  |  |
| Prepare equipment such as ultrasound. |  |  |
| Identify and report faulty equipment. |  |  |
| Undertake hospital transfer, the discharge process and tasks such as data input. |  |  |

**Support the mother and birthing partner in labour**

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| Assist midwives and doctors with performing ultrasound scans. | Independent undertaking of venepuncture. | Cannulation. |
| Assist midwives and doctors with performing transvaginal scans. | Obtain capillary sample of maternal blood for glucose analysis. | Apply transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation machine. |
| Calculation of mother's body mass index.  | Work with the midwife to prepare women for elective caesarean section. | Apply supra pubic pressure during shoulder dystocia. |
| Obtain urine sample from mothers. | Process fetal scalp/umbilical ph. | Assist with syringe feeding of expressed milk. |
| Perform urinalysis. | Rubbing up a contraction during post-partum haemorrhage. | Work with the midwife to prepare women for emergency caesarean section. |
| Support women with personal hygiene. | Independent removal of epidural catheter. |  |
| Record mother's oral fluid intake and urine output. | Arrange and process microbiological specimens. |  |
| Undertake, record maternal vital signs such as temperature, pulse, respiratory rate and blood pressure and report any concerns to the midwife. | Assist mothers with postnatal exercises. |  |
| Recognise signs of ill-health in mothers and report to the midwife. | Support women with hand expression of breast milk. |  |
| Measure and apply thrombo embolic deterrent stockings. | Assist women to use breast pumps. |  |
| Assist with placing women in lithotomy position in preparation for an instrumental delivery or theatre procedure. | Support mothers to cup feed. |  |
| Independent removal of indwelling urethral catheter. | Discuss changing stool and micturition of normal neonate. |  |
| Provide reassurance to new mothers and birthing partners. | In cases of bereavement, assist families through the provision of information and support. |  |
| Promote skin-to-skin contact with healthy babies and their mothers. |  |  |
| Support mothers with bathing their baby. |  |  |
| Inform parents about the benefits of breastfeeding. |  |  |
| Position and comfort of breastfeeding women including the position and attachment of the baby. |  |  |
| Support mothers with formula feeding including demonstrating how to make-up formula feeds. |  |  |

**Care of baby**

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| Wash and bathe baby. | Weigh baby. | Assist midwife with neonatal resuscitation. |
| Nappy change. | Identification and security of baby. | Skin care including awareness of the potential seriousness of skin rashes. |
|  | Following initial assessment by a midwife and their development of a care plan undertake routine healthy baby observations in the hospital and community reporting any abnormalities to the midwife. | Eye care of baby where there are signs of ill health. |
|  | Observe and advise mother on care of cord including recognition of abnormalities and reporting these to a midwife. | Describe, undertake, and document vital signs of the normal neonate: temperature, respiratory rate, heart rate and oxygen saturation and where appropriate report to a midwife. |
|  | Gather urine sample in hospital. | Obtain capillary sample of blood via heel prick. |
|  | Recognise and report to a midwife potential signs of neonatal jaundice, in the absence of signs of ill health. | Undertake Newborn Blood Spot. |
|  | Eye care of baby, in the absence of ill health.  | Recognise and report to a midwife potential signs of neonatal jaundice in ill, premature or compromised babies.  |
|  |  | Daily baby check. |

**Public Health**

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|  |  | Promote healthy living through the provision of information and advice on nutritional health and smoking cessation. |
|  |  | Provide one to one information, advice and support to vulnerable or high-risk mothers in respect of public health, breast and formula feeding, parenting skills and family adjustment. |

**Theatre tasks: in addition to the tasks above**

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| Support and reassure the woman and birth partner during the procedure. | Document times and personnel present in theatre records for each procedure. | Undertake scrub role. |
| Clean and prepare theatre. | Check swabs and needles in SVD. | Check swabs and needles in theatre and forceps deliveries.  |
| Set up equipment. | Undertake runner role. | Daily baby check.  |
| Handle, package and send specimens. | Cannula removal. |  |
| Providing breakfast | Checking theatre every day.  |  |
| Daily checks, this includes trolleys, fridge temperatures.  |  |  |