**DEFINITION OF THE MIDWIFE**

A midwife is a person who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is based on the ICM Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice and the framework of the ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education and is recognized in the country where it is located; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title ‘midwife’; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery.

***Midwifery is defined as*** *“skilled, knowledgeable and compassionate care for childbearing women, newborn infants and families across the continuum from prepregnancy, pregnancy, birth, postpartum and the early weeks of life”.*

*The evidence shows us that midwifery plays a “vital” role, and when provided by educated, trained, regulated, licensed midwives, is associated with improved quality of care and rapid and sustained reductions in maternal and newborn mortality.*

*All women and newborns have a right to a quality of care that enables a positive childbirth experience that includes respect and dignity, a companion of choice, clear communication by maternity staff, pain relief strategies, mobility in labour and birth position of choice. Midwives are essential to the provision of quality of care, in all settings, globally.*

#### SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF THE MIDWIFE

The midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and

the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife’s own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant.

This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in 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 woman, but also within the family and the community.

This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women’s health, sexual or reproductive healthand child care.

A midwife may practise in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics or health units.

#### DEFINITION OF MIDWIFERY

Midwifery is the profession of midwives, only midwives practise midwifery.

It has a unique body of knowledge, skills and professional attitudes drawn from disciplines shared by other health professions such as science and sociology, but practised by midwives within a professional framework of autonomy, partnership, ethics and accountability.

#### INTERNATIONAL CODE OF ETHICS FOR MIDWIVES

The code addresses the midwife’s ethical mandates in keeping with the Mission,

the International definition of the Midwife, and standards of ICM to promote the health and well- being of women and newborns within their families and communities.

Such care may encompass the reproductive life cycle of the woman from the pre-pregnancy stage right through to the menopause and to the end of life

These mandates include how midwives relate to others; how they practise midwifery; how they uphold professional responsibilities and duties; and how they are to work to assure the integrity of the profession of midwifery.

Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework

The scope of Practice: the scope of parts, capacities, duties, and exercises which an enrolled nurture or enlisted birthing specialist is instructed, skilled and has an expert to perform. In 2000, the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework were produced by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) (some time ago A Bord Altranais) to help medical caretakers and maternity specialists in building up their individual expert parts. From that point forward, the Scope Framework, with its basic leadership calculation, has been a cornerstone of direction for the professions. ​

* Midwifery Care
* Labor Induction
* Maternity Issues
* Women Health Care
* Women Health Care