

Unit Outline (Higher Education)

Institute / School:	Institute of Health and Wellbeing
Unit Title:	PHARMACOLOGY AND DIAGNOSTICS FOR MIDWIVES
Unit ID:	MIDBM2001
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	MIDBM3106
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	060303

Description of the Unit:

This midwifery unit will provide the fundamental knowledge required of midwives, detailed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Standard for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines for Midwives within the Australian health system. The focus of this unit will be on the Australian regulatory, legal and competency frameworks which govern midwifery prescribing and diagnostic practice. Further, students will focus on assessment and clinical history taking required to inform a medication and care plan, clinical investigations, and interpretation. This unit of study will include essential elements related to pharmacology to inform rationale for midwifery prescribing choices as they apply to the continuum of pregnancy, birth, postpartum and the neonatal period. Woman centered communication skills, interdisciplinary consultation and referral pathways will be advanced, with a focus on the principles of informed consent and legal requirements for written prescription.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, P, MF, F, XF)

Work Experience:

No work experience: Student is not undertaking work experience in industry.

Placement Component: No

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the Unit but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above, has completed all major assessment tasks (including all sub-components where a task has multiple parts) as specified in the Unit Description and is not eligible for any other form of

supplementary assessment.

Course Level:

Level of Unit in Course	AQF Level of Course					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	✓	■	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

(On successful completion of the course the students are expected to be able to):

Knowledge:

- K1.** Prioritise appropriately relevant clinical history, and physical/emotional concerns associated with maternal or neonatal wellbeing.
- K2.** Synthesise theoretical physiological understanding of pregnancy, birth and postnatal complexity when determining a likely source of puerperal infection.
- K3.** Evaluate theoretical understandings of pharmacology, potential benefits or harms, and appropriate prescription(s) associated with a clinical presentation in the context of midwifery scope of practice.
- K4.** Explain relevant midwifery regulatory, legal and competency frameworks which govern midwifery prescribing and diagnostic practice.
- K5.** Interpret legal requirements for the written prescription, management and record keeping of scheduled medicines.

Skills:

- S1.** Demonstrate safe midwifery prescribing practice based on theoretical knowledge and reasoning.
- S2.** Demonstrate sound clinical assessment skills associated with the midwifery context and scope of practice.
- S3.** Demonstrate professional communication skills specific to informed consent and collaborative decision making with women regarding care options.
- S4.** Demonstrate an ability to prescribe medication or diagnostic testing compliant with relevant legislation, regulatory frameworks, standards of practice associated with midwifery scope of practice.

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Critically assess maternal and neonatal wellbeing, and apply current research findings to inform a plan of care.
- A2.** Apply legal and ethical principles of practice to demonstrate competent midwifery assessment and prescribing skills according to midwifery scope of practice.
- A3.** Demonstrate midwifery competency based on the NMBA Midwife Standards for Practice and the NMBA Standard for Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines for Midwives.

Unit Content:

The ANMAC National Accreditation Standards for the Midwife (2014); ANMAC Programs Leading to Endorsement for Scheduled Medicines for Midwives (2015); NMBA Midwife Standards for Practice (2018); NMBA Code of Conduct for the Midwife (2018); NMBA Code of Ethics for the Midwife (2014); and the NMBA Registration

standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for Midwives (2017), have substantially informed the syllabus/content of this unit.

- Australian regulatory, legal and competency frameworks which govern midwifery prescribing and diagnostic practice
 - National Health Act (1953)
 - Health Legislation Amendment (Midwives and Nurse Practitioners) 2010
 - National Prescribing Service (NPS) Prescribing Competencies Framework (2021)
 - NMBA Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for Midwives (2017)
- State and territory drug regulations: Formularies and gazette governance
- Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS)
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Medication management and record keeping
- Pharmacology for midwives
- Principles of gram negative/gram positive bacteria
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Allergy and adverse drug reaction
- Woman-centred communication, womens needs and informed consent
- Assessment of wellbeing and care planning for the antenatal, birth, postpartum and neonatal period
- Common puerperal infection
- Investigations, screening and diagnostic interpretation
- Critical thinking regarding management options and therapeutic goals
- Critical thinking regarding choice of medication when prescribing and response to treatment
- Legal prescribing requirements for written prescription
- Contemporaneous documentation
- Collaborative practice, consultation and referral pathways
- Midwifery Private Practice Insurance arrangements

FEDTASKS

Federation University Federation recognises that students require key transferable employability skills to prepare them for their future workplace and society. FEDTASKS (**T**ransferable **A**tttributes **S**kills and **K**nowledge) provide a targeted focus on five key transferable Attributes, Skills, and Knowledge that are be embedded within curriculum, developed gradually towards successful measures and interlinked with cross-discipline and Co-operative Learning opportunities. *One or more FEDTASK, transferable Attributes, Skills or Knowledge must be evident in the specified learning outcomes and assessment for each FedUni Unit, and all must be directly assessed in each Course.*

FEDTASK attribute and descriptor		Development and acquisition of FEDTASKS in the Unit	
		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
FEDTASK 1 Interpersonal	Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate, interact and work with others both individually and in groups. Students will be required to display skills in-person and/or online in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using effective verbal and non-verbal communication • Listening for meaning and influencing via active listening • Showing empathy for others • Negotiating and demonstrating conflict resolution skills • Working respectfully in cross-cultural and diverse teams. 	K1, S3, A1 A3	AT2

FEDTASK attribute and descriptor		Development and acquisition of FEDTASKS in the Unit	
		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
FEDTASK 2 Leadership	Students will demonstrate the ability to apply professional skills and behaviours in leading others. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a collegial environment • Showing self-awareness and the ability to self-reflect • Inspiring and convincing others • Making informed decisions • Displaying initiative 	K3 K4, S2 S3, A2 A3	AT3
FEDTASK 3 Critical Thinking and Creativity	Students will demonstrate an ability to work in complexity and ambiguity using the imagination to create new ideas. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflecting critically • Evaluating ideas, concepts and information • Considering alternative perspectives to refine ideas • Challenging conventional thinking to clarify concepts • Forming creative solutions in problem solving 	K1 K2 K3 K5, S2 S4, A1 A2 A3	AT2, AT3
FEDTASK 4 Digital Literacy	Students will demonstrate the ability to work fluently across a range of tools, platforms and applications to achieve a range of tasks. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding, evaluating, managing, curating, organising and sharing digital information • Collating, managing, accessing and using digital data securely • Receiving and responding to messages in a range of digital media • Contributing actively to digital teams and working groups • Participating in and benefiting from digital learning opportunities 	K4 K5, S1 S4, A1 A3	AT1, AT2
FEDTASK 5 Sustainable and Ethical Mindset	Students will demonstrate the ability to consider and assess the consequences and impact of ideas and actions in enacting ethical and sustainable decisions. Students will be required to display skills in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making informed judgments that consider the impact of devising solutions in global economic environmental and societal contexts • Committing to social responsibility as a professional and a citizen • Evaluating ethical, socially responsible and/or sustainable challenges and generating and articulating responses • Embracing lifelong, life-wide and life-deep learning to be open to diverse others • Implementing required actions to foster sustainability in their professional and personal life. 	K4 K5, S1 S3, A2	AT3

Learning Task and Assessment:

Students cannot submit for assessment content generated by AI except when expressly permitted by Unit Coordinators, communicated through the unit description. Use of AI in assessment tasks without express permission is considered Academic Misconduct and may result in a student failing the unit.

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K2, K3, S1, A3	Online Test: Theoretical concepts of pharmacology, maternal and neonatal physiology, diagnostic and prescribing practice	Online assessment: Test	20-30%
K1, K4, K5, S2, S4, A1, A2	Clinical case study: Theoretical concepts of clinical assessment, regulatory governance, safe midwifery prescribing practice.	Written assessment: Clinical case study	40-50%
K1, K4, K5, S1, S3, A1, A3	Plan of care: Theoretical concepts of clinical assessment, pharmacology, professional communication and collaborative practice, regulatory governance.	Written assessment: Care plan	20-30%

Adopted Reference Style:

APA

Refer to the [library website](#) for more information

Fed Cite - [referencing tool](#)