ADVANCED MIDWIFERY PRACTICE
AN EVOLUTIONARY CONCEPT ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION

DEFINITION: “A level of nursing practice that utilizes extended and expanded skills, experience and knowledge in assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation of the care required” (ANMC, 2009)

Advanced nursing practice (ANP) roles
- Nurse practitioners
- Clinical nurse specialists
- Certified registered nurse anesthetists
- Certified nurse midwives
INTRODUCTION

- ‘Advanced practice’:
  • more recent development
  • controversial notion
  • necessity and desirability for midwives/midwifery

- Importance of conceptual clarity


METHODS

- Concept analysis using the evolutionary method developed by Beth Rodgers (1989)
METHODS

- Literature search:
  - key concepts:
    o ‘midwifery’
    o ‘advanced practice’
    o ‘advanced practitioner titles’
  - databases: Pubmed, Web of Science, CINAHL, EMBASE, Cochrane Library, Invert
  - limits: language (English, French, Dutch)
  - grey literature

RESULTS

1. Definition of advanced midwife practitioners (AMPs):

   “AMPs promote wellness, offer healthcare interventions and advocate healthy lifestyle choices for patients/clients, their families and carers in a wide variety of settings in collaboration with other healthcare professionals, according to agreed scope of practice guidelines. They utilise advanced midwifery knowledge and critical thinking skills to independently provide optimum patient/client care through caseload management and acute and/or chronic illness” (NCNM, 2008)

2. Attributes of AMPs:
   - Autonomous practice
   - Leadership
   - Expertise
   - Research skills
RESULTS

Attributes of AMPs:
- Autonomous practice
  - Independent practice
  - Responsibility and accountability for practice
  - Focus on ‘midwifery management’ vs. ‘obstetric management’

- Leadership
  - Clinical leadership: “activities supporting the development of practice in the service”
  - Professional leadership: “activities supporting the development outside of the service at national and international level” (Elliott et al. 2013)


RESULTS

CLINICAL LEADERSHIP
- Optimisation of client care through practice development
- Introduction and development of client care services
- Responsibility for policy, guideline development and implementation
- Coordination of activities of the multidisciplinary team (MDT)
- Education and coaching of / mentorship for the MDT
- Stimulation of professional development of the MDT
- Creation of optimal learning environment for the MDT
- Role model of autonomous clinical decision-making

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP
- Engagement in education at a national and international level (e.g. curriculum development and evaluation)
- Policy development at a national and international level through membership of committees, advisory groups
- Engagement in professional organisations and committees on a national and international level

(Elliott et al. 2013)
RESULTS

Attributes of AMPs:
- Expertise
  • Practice experience
  • Integration of theoretical knowledge and practice experience
- Research skills
  • Advancement in midwifery as a profession and science
  • Provision of holistic, evidence-based care
  • Dissemination of knowledge and reflection


RESULTS

3. Titles

- Advanced midwife(ry) practitioner
- Advanced midwife
- Advanced practice midwife
- Consultant midwife
- Midwife practitioner
- Midwife consultant
- Certified nurse midwife

(Fahy 2010, Humphreys et al. 2007, Lesia and Roets 2013, Smith et al. 2010)
RESULTS

4. Roles
- Clinician
- Clinical leader
- Professional leader
- Educator
- Expert / consultant
- Manager
- Change agent
- Researcher
- Auditor

(Begley et al. 2015, Elliott et al. 2013, Lesia and Roets 2013, Walker et al. 2014)

RESULTS

5. Related terms
- Midwife / midwifery led care
- Advanced neonatal nurse practitioners
- Advanced obstetrical nurse practitioners
- Clinical midwife specialist
RESULTS

5. Related terms

Table 1. Roles and Requirements of Clinical Specialists and Advanced Practitioners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical nurse and midwife specialists (CNMS)</td>
<td>• Perform patient assessment, plan and initiate care and treatment modalities within agreed interdisciplinary protocols and evaluate their effectiveness</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Promote research, teaching and professional development to nurses or midwives and other health care professionals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Evaluate, participate in audit and use outcomes to improve service provision</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provide leadership in clinical practice and act as a resource</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Generate and contribute to the development of clinical standards and guidelines</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced nurse and advanced midwife practitioners (ANMP)</td>
<td>• Be accountable and responsible for clinical decision making through specialized management</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Plan, initiate care and treatment modalities, evaluate their effectiveness and terminate care episodes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Work with other health care professionals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Provide clinical leadership</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Lead, conduct, and disseminate audit and research</td>
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<td>• Contribute to service planning and budgetary processes</td>
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(Begley et al. 2015)

6. Antecedents

- North America
  - USA
    - Specialised and advanced practice roles > 40 years
    - Debate on certified nurse midwives/certified midwives as advanced nurse/midwife practitioners
  - Entry level requirement for practice: min. graduate level
- Canada
- Australasia
  - Australia
  - New Zealand
- Africa
  - South Africa
    - Goal: Milenium Development Goals 4 and 5
    - Entry level requirement for practice: graduate level

RESULTS

6. Antecedents

- Europe
  - Ireland
    - Goal: encouragement of experienced midwives to remain in clinical practice through a clinical career pathway
    - Entry level requirement for practice: Master's degree or higher
  - United Kingdom
    - Advanced practitioners vs. consultant midwives
    - Goal: recruitment and retention of experienced midwives, strengthening primary care, modernization in healthcare, reduction of inequalities in healthcare
    - Drivers: expectations of health service users, new European Commission Working Time Directive
    - Entry level requirement for practice: Master degree level equivalent


RESULTS

7. Consequences

- Operational / strategic outcomes
  - Care quality
  - Continuity of care
  - Innovation in care
  - Audit and policy
  - Education of staff
- Obstetric care
  - Interventions during labour and birth
  - Labour / birth complications
  - Breastfeeding
- Gynaecologic care
  - Abortion care

DISCUSSION

- Lack of international / consensus definition
  - Elements:
    o Specialisation
    o Extension of practice
    o Advancement
  - Starting points:
    o NCNM definition (2008)
    o ICM Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice (Fullerton et al. 2011)
    o New proposal: “Advanced midwifery practice is characterized by a level of midwifery practice at which midwives use their expertise, management and clinical leadership skills to provide evidence-based, tailored care for women and their families independently and autonomously. Professional leadership and research skills are used to evaluate and improve practice, and to advance midwifery as a profession and science” (Goemaes et al. 2016)

DISCUSSION

- Educational requirements for AMPs
- Research agenda
  - Evaluation of AMPs’ practice
  - Desirability of the implementation of AMPs
  - Barriers and facilitators for the implementation of AMPs
- Advanced Midwifery Practice in Belgium?
TAKE HOME MESSAGE

1. AMPs are implemented in healthcare systems in several countries. A wide variety in the emergence, titles, roles, and scope of practice of AMPs is found. Four major attributes are identified: autonomous practice, leadership, expertise, and research skills.

2. More research examining the impact of AMPs on perinatal, gynaecologic, and strategic outcomes is desirable.

3. AMP might offer clinical career opportunities for midwives.

REFERENCES


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