**Module title:** Specialist Practice Placement 1  
**Module number:** MW2009  
**Year and term:** Year 2 Michaelmas, Hilary or Trinity terms  
**Pre-requisite:** None  
**Co-requisite:** MW2201, MW2202, MW2503  
**ECTS:** 10 Credits  
**Hours:** 200 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>0 hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directed learning</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent learning</td>
<td>0 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>195 hours</td>
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**Aim and Rationale**

This module in the 2nd year of the programme will comprise of two week placements in any three of the following placements: medical placement, surgical placement, gynaecology placement and theatre placement. The aim of the placement medical and surgical placement is to introduce midwifery students to the health care needs of a population out with the maternity services in order for them to observe the aspects (preventative, diagnostic, curative, progressive and recovery) of diseases and conditions never or rarely seen in midwifery context.

The gynaecological placement will afford students with the opportunity to care for women experiencing early pregnancy problems and loss and for women and their families who have been bereaved through miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death or disability. Midwifery student will also be afforded the opportunity to care for women with pathophysiological conditions requiring intensive, one-to-one care.

In the operating theatre, midwifery students will to observe and participate in the care of women undergoing planned and emergency obstetric and gynaecological surgery and procedures.

**Outcomes**

Following completion of this practice placement, midwifery students will be able to:

**Medical and Surgical placements**

- Demonstrate awareness of nurse patient communication strategies in a variety of acute medical and surgical settings;
- Demonstrate awareness of the psychological impact of admission to an acute medical or surgical setting;
- Demonstrate awareness of the impact of procedures, treatment and diagnoses on patients and their relatives;
- Demonstrate awareness of the social issues that need to be addressed for some individuals and their families requiring health care in an acute general hospital;
- The communication or other strategies used to ally any fears experienced by patients (or their relative) prior to or during admissions, procedures or treatment;
- Discuss the strategies observed and methods used in health promotion and education and disease prevention;
- Participate in the admission of patients (elective and emergency) to a ward;
- Be aware of some of the needs of these patients and their relatives: (physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs);
- Plan and participate in the nursing care of patients and be aware of the prescribed medical or surgical treatment and their potential effects and side effects;
- Participate in the preparation of patients for medical and surgical procedures;
- Participate in the administration of medications under the supervision of the staff nurse.

**Gynaecological placement and High Dependency Care**
- Participate in care to women experiencing pathophysiological processes during pregnancy and /or the puerperium;
- Participate in the care of women experiencing varied gynaecological conditions;
- Critically discuss the physical, emotional, psychological and social effects of some of the observed pathophysiology on women and their families;
- Identify available support systems for these women and their families and demonstrate the ability to access these support systems;
- Provide and participate in the care of women experiencing miscarriage or stillbirth.

**Operating theatre**
- Identify key features that contribute to positive midwife/doctor/woman interaction/communication in the operating room situation;
- Be aware of the mechanisms employed by all professionals and personnel in preserving and protecting a woman’s privacy and dignity in the operating room setting;
- Demonstrate the ability to participate in the provision of information and psychological support prior to surgery;
- Demonstrate the ability to prepare women physically for surgery;
- Participate in and provide care to women undergoing elective and emergency surgery;
- Participate in the provision of care to women who are anaesthetised or unconscious;
- Participate in the provision of care to women immediately recovering from anaesthesia and surgery.

**Assessment**

**Attendance**

**Content and Process**

**Medical and Surgical placement**
During the placement, the midwifery student is expected to review the core texts on a variety of medical and surgical conditions. The midwifery student should relate the potential effects of these conditions on the woman and the fetus pre-conception, during each trimester of pregnancy and postnatally on the woman and neonate. As far as practicable, the midwifery students should, with the aid of the staff nurse or
facilitator, attempt to follow complete patient pathways whilst on placement. It is felt that this will achieve the most meaningful experience for the midwifery student.

Gynaecological placement
During the placement, the midwifery student will be afforded the opportunity to observe and participate in the care of women (and their families) that have been or are experiencing deviations from the normal physiological patterns as women, in pregnancy or in the puerperium.

Operating theatre
During the placement in operating theatre, the midwifery student should endeavour to focus on scrub duties focusing on aseptic techniques; (i) preparation/positioning of women pre surgery/procedure (ii) the means of supporting the surgical team; anaesthetic duties focusing on aspects of induction and reversal of anaesthesia including the application of cricoid pressure; recovery duties focusing on the importance of vital observations; follow up consultations with women post surgery

Essential Reading
During the placement, the midwifery student is expected to review the core texts on a variety of medical, surgical and gynaecological conditions.


Further suggested readings/sources of knowledge may be provided.