



Mercy Health

Care first

Mercy Hospitals Victoria Ltd

**Continuity of Care
Guidelines
2020**

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Acknowledgements:

Mercy Health acknowledges the prior work of Eastern Health in the development of the MHVL's CoCE guidelines.

Victorian Midwifery Academics (MIDAC), Melbourne Victoria. (June 2016). Continuity of Care Experiences in Midwifery Curricula: Guidance for Victorian midwifery students, universities and placement providers.



WELCOME

Mercy Health welcomes you to our organisation. The following guidelines have been established to ensure the best possible experience for women and students through the Continuity of Care Experience. In addition to following Mercy Health's guidelines, it is the student's responsibility to ensure they are following the requirements for recruitment, consent and conduct as set out by their university.

Please contact the **Clinical Placement Coordinator** if you have any questions:

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RECRUITMENT GUIDELINES

MERCY HEALTH AFFILIATED STUDENTS

Mercy Health permits the recruitment of woman into CoCE **within** Mercy Hospitals Victoria Ltd (MHVL) by midwifery students that have attended clinical placement and student induction/orientation at Mercy Health.

MERCY HEALTH NON-AFFILIATED STUDENTS

Women recruited into CoCE from **outside** sources may be followed through Mercy Health Antenatal Clinics, Parent Education Classes, Appointments, Birthing and Postnatal Departments as per the following guidelines.

MERCY HEALTH AFFILIATED STUDENTS- RECRUITMENT

PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES

Attendance at Parent Education Classes for the purpose of recruitment for CoCE can be organised via Parent Education (see 2020 Mercy Health Student Nurse/Midwife Orientation Manual).

When attending Parent Education Class it is expected that students follow these guidelines:

- The student should introduce themselves as a CoCE participant, provide University Student Identification Card, Working With Children Check and Police Check upon request to the Parent Education Class Facilitator
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate midwifery students should wear university uniform and name badge
- The student will be asked to deliver a brief presentation (3-5 minutes) outlining the Continuity of Care Experience (CoCE)
- The student should prepare a flyer/card to hand out to women (with student contact details, university and CoCE details)
- The student is required to attend the entire session
- Should a student be unable to attend an expected session, they should notify Parent Education at the earliest convenience

ANTENATAL CLINICS

When attending Antenatal Clinics for the purpose of recruitment for CoCE, it is requested that students follow these guidelines:

- The student should introduce themselves as a CoCE participant, provide University Student Identification Card, Working With Children Check and Police Check upon request to the Registered Midwife or Doctor
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate students are required to wear university uniform and name badge
- The student should provide a flyer/card to hand out to women (with student contact details, university and CoCE details)

ANTENATAL CLINICS- ALL STUDENTS

When attending Antenatal Clinics with a CoCE, it is requested that students follow these guidelines:

- The student should introduce themselves as a CoCE participant and gain consent from the Registered Midwife or Doctor to attend the visit
- The student should provide the CoCE consent, a student identification card, Working With Children Check and Police Check upon request
- All students should be professionally presented and wear a name badge
- When attending a CoCE, the student focus should be on their role as a support person
- Students are **not allowed** to provide clinical care and are to remain in an observational capacity

The Registered Midwife or Doctor should note the name of the student and recruitment of the woman into the CoCE program in the Health Record.

BIRTHING SERVICES- ALL STUDENTS

When attending Birthing Services with a CoCE, it is requested that the student follow these guidelines:

- The student should introduce themselves as a CoCE participant to the Registered Midwife and Associate Unit Manager and gain consent to attend
- The student should provide the CoCE consent, University Student Identification Card, Working With Children Check and Police Check upon request
- The student should present themselves professionally at all times and wear a name badge
- Undergraduate and Postgraduate students attending Birthing Services with a CoCE are not to exclude any student on a rostered Clinical Placement shift from providing care to a CoCE woman
- **Undergraduate midwifery students currently on clinical placement in Birthing Services at MHVL**
 - May attend a CoCE outside of clinical placement hours
 - Undergraduate students **are** able to provide clinical care and participate in the birth of the baby and/or reception of the baby under **direct clinical supervision**
 - The Undergraduate student is expected to perform within their current scope of practice
- **MHVL Postgraduate midwifery students:**
 - May attend a CoCE outside of clinical placement hours
 - Postgraduate students **are** able to provide clinical care and participate in the birth of the baby and/or reception of the baby under **direct clinical supervision**

- The postgraduate student is expected to perform within their current scope of practice
- **Midwifery students not currently on clinical placement in Birthing Services at MHVL:**
 - When attending a CoCE, the students sole focus should be on their role as a support person
 - Students are **not allowed** to provide clinical care and are to remain in an observational capacity

CAESAREAN SECTIONS

MERCY HEALTH AFFILIATED STUDENTS

Mercy Health affiliated students are permitted to attend the caesarean sections of CoCE women **within** MHVL provided they have:

- attended student induction/orientation at MHW/WMH (including orientation to the Operating Theatre)
- undertaken clinical placement at the site the woman is birthing at
- been granted permission by the **Clinical Placement Coordinator**

When requesting to attend the caesarean section of a CoCE woman, students must follow these guidelines:

- Email the **Clinical Placement Coordinator** to seek permission to attend the caesarean section of the CoCE woman (include woman's name and proposed date of caesarean section)
- The Clinical Placement Coordinator will liaise with the Operating Theatre regarding the suitability of this request
- Students are unable to negotiate/organise any other arrangement with either the Medical, Nursing or Midwifery Staff in Antenatal Clinics, Private Consulting Rooms or Operating Theatre
- If the student is granted permission by the **Clinical Placement Coordinator** to attend a caesarean section:
 - The student must introduce themselves as a CoCE participant to the Registered Midwife and Theatre Staff
 - The student should present themselves professionally at all times and wear a name badge
 - The student should provide the CoCE consent, University Student Identification Card, Working With Children Check and Police Check upon request
 - Students are **not allowed** to provide clinical care and are to remain in an observational capacity
 - The student must be **directly supervised** at all times

MERCY HEALTH NON-AFFILIATED STUDENTS

Mercy Health non-affiliated students are not permitted to attend the caesarean sections of CoCE women at MHVL. These students are able to follow the CoCE woman pre and post-caesarean section in the role of support person.

When attending pre and post-caesarean with a CoCE, it is requested that the student follow these guidelines:

- The student should introduce themselves as a CoCE participant to the Registered Midwife and Associate Unit Manager and gain consent to attend
- The student should provide the CoCE consent, University Student Identification Card, Working With Children Check and Police Check upon request
- The student should present themselves professionally at all times and wear a name badge
- Students are **not allowed** to provide clinical care and are to remain in an observational capacity

STUDENT CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Students should contact the Clinical Placement Coordinator prior to leaving a rostered clinical placement shift at Mercy Health (when attending a Continuity of Care Experience).

APPENDIX

Continuity of Care Experiences

Experience in woman-centered care as part of continuity of care experiences. The student is supported to:

- (i) Establish, maintain and conclude a professional relationship while experiencing continuity with individual women through pregnancy, labour and birth, and the postnatal period, regardless of model of care.
- (ii) Provide midwifery care within a professional practice setting and under the supervision of a midwife—in collaborative practice arrangements supervision by other relevant registered practitioners (for example, medical officer qualified in obstetrics, child health nurse or physiotherapist) may be appropriate.
- (iii) Engage with a minimum of 10 women—engagement involves attending four antenatal visits, two postnatal visits and, for the majority of women, the labour and birth.
- (iv) Maintain a record of each engagement incorporating regular reflection and review by the education or health service provider.

Reference:

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC). (2014). ANMAC - Midwife Accreditation Standards, page 24.