

NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND NUTRITION CONTINUITY OF CARE EXPERIENCE PROTOCOL

Continuity of Care Experience (CCE) is defined as “the ongoing midwifery relationship between the student and the woman from initial contact in early pregnancy through to the weeks immediately after the woman has given birth, across the interface between community and hospital settings.”
(Australian College of Midwives, 2006)

The midwifery students' involvement in the CCEs during the GDMidwifery is a privilege and is invaluable to their development of an understanding regarding the provision of care for women during pregnancy, labour, birth, postpartum and support at home.

Any woman (and her family) who has consented to be involved in CCE with a midwifery student is under no obligation for that CCE to continue if the woman or her family find that circumstances have altered for physical, psychological, social, emotional or spiritual reasons. Any midwifery student involved with a woman (and her family) may have that CCE discontinued if circumstances have altered making continuation inappropriate as identified by the woman, her family, the midwifery student, or the GDMidwifery Coordinator.

If circumstances have altered and, although the woman and her family may wish to continue with the CCE, the decision to discontinue the CCE may be made by JCU Nursing, Midwifery and Nutrition. This will be determined through consultation between the GD Midwifery Coordinator and subject coordinator. Consultation and discussion will also be undertaken between the representatives of the course, the woman and her family throughout this process.

All professional requirements for clinical placement apply to the CCE. Midwifery students must ensure they comply with all scope of practice, duty of care, professional ethics, and professional standards at all phases in the CCE. If any clinical placement issues arise, the Clinical Challenge Policy will be implemented and adhered to.

GD Midwifery students engaging in CCE will provide midwifery care under the direct supervision of a Registered Midwife or Registered Medical Officer (if appropriate) at all times.

Midwifery students undertaking CCEs are required to attend at least four antenatal visits and have at least two occasions of contact postnatally with each woman. With the consent of each woman, the student is expected to be with the woman during her labour and birth for the majority of the students CCEs. The CCE will be complete when the midwifery student has been in contact with the woman in the first 48 hours after birth and again at 4- 6 weeks postnatally. Communication between the midwifery student and the woman must be maintained to ensure continuity of care across the continuum and may be extended to include telephone contact when physical meetings are not possible.

Midwifery students attending the labour and birth of the women are required to work within their scope of practice and abide by the health service workplace health and safety guidelines. Specifically, the student has the discretion to work up to, but not longer than, 12 hours to meet the needs of the woman. A period of 12 hours of work must be followed by a minimum break of 8 hours.