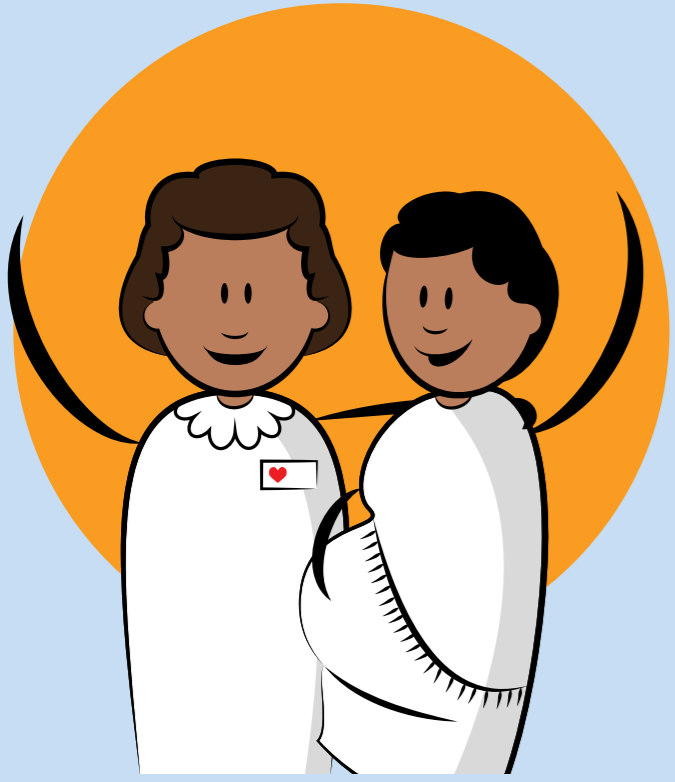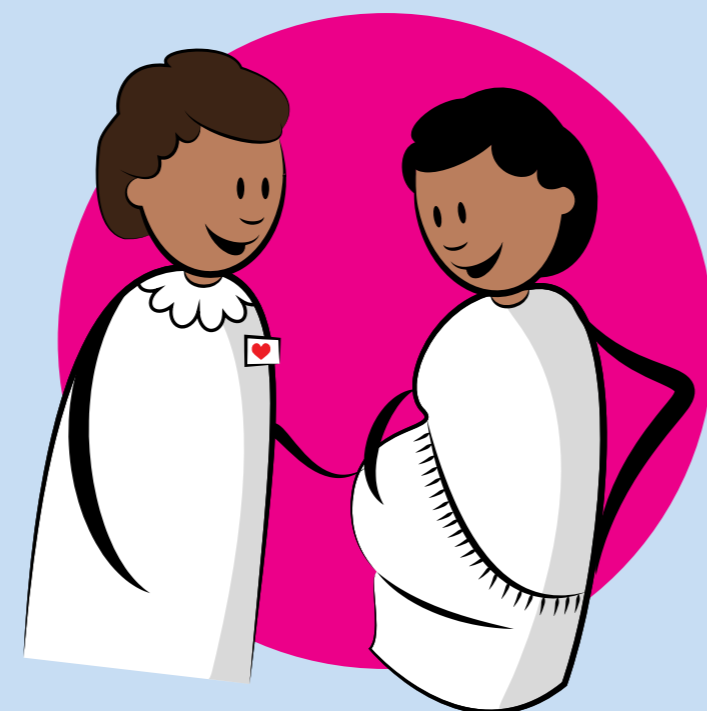# Essential Competencies

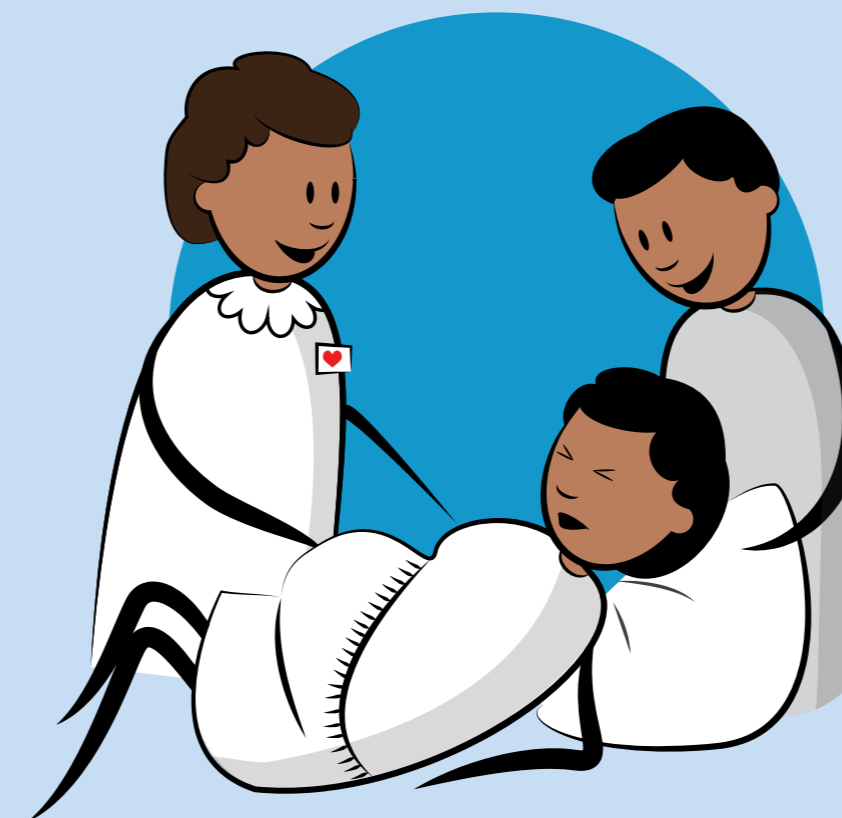## *for Midwifery Practice*

2018 UPDATE

1. GENERAL COMPETENCIES

1.a Assume responsibility for own decisions and actions as an autonomous practitioner

1.b Assume responsibility for self-care and self-development as a midwife

1.c Appropriately delegate aspects of care and provide supervision

1.d Use research to inform practice

1.e Uphold fundamental human rights of individuals when providing midwifery care

1.f Adhere to jurisdictional laws, regulatory requirements, and codes of conduct for midwifery practice

1.g Facilitate women to make individual choices about care

1.h Demonstrate effective interpersonal communication with women and families, health care teams, and community groups

1.i Facilitate normal birth processes in institutional and community settings, including women's homes

1.j Assess the health status, screen for health risks, and promote general health and well-being of women and infants

1.k Prevent and treat common health problems related to reproduction and early life

1.l Recognize conditions outside midwifery scope of practice and refer appropriately.

1.m Care for women who experience physical and sexual violence and abuse

2. PRE-PREGNANCY AND ANTENATAL

2.a Provide pre-pregnancy care

2.b Determine health status of woman

2.c Assess fetal well-being

2.d Monitor the progression of pregnancy

2.e Promote and support health behaviours that improve well being

2.f Provide anticipatory guidance related to pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, parenthood, and change in the family

2.g Detect, manage, and refer women with complicated pregnancies

2.h Assist the woman and her family to plan for an appropriate place of birth

2.i Provide care to women with unintended or mistimed pregnancy

3. CARE DURING LABOUR AND BIRTH

3.a Promote physiologic labour and birth

3.b Manage a safe spontaneous vaginal birth and prevent complications

3.c Provide care of the newborn immediately after birth

4. ONGOING CARE OF WOMEN AND NEWBORNS

4.a Provide postnatal care for the healthy woman

4.b Provide care to healthy newborn infant

4.c Promote and support breastfeeding

4.d Detect and treat or refer postnatal complications in woman

4.e Detect and manage health problems in newborn infant

4.f Provide family planning services

International Confederation *of* **Midwives**

Strengthening Midwifery Globally

Want to know more?

Find the complete document at **www.internationalmidwives.org**