

## Standards for Perinatal Education Practice



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## Why do we need standards

- ✓ Standards used to benchmark the profession
- ✓ Recognition of the perinatal education profession
- ✓ Professional status for the perinatal educator
- ✓ A guide to aspiring educators
- ✓ Provide standards that the public can trust and its clear what they can expect



## Standards

- ✓ **Structure standards**
- ✓ **Process standards**
- ✓ **Outcomes**





## Structure standards

The practice site/venue/facility

Physical standards

Education standards

Personal standards

Educators knowledge, skills, attitudes

Records

Curriculum

## Process standards

Program enable informed decisions

Program encourages positive relationships

Relationship promotes improved maternal care

Business practices comply with legislation

## Outcomes

Client to provide feedback

Monitoring of the practice

Audit quality of education





## 1.1. The practice site / venue / facilities /amenities promote the comfort and learning experience of the clients



## 1.1 Physical standards

- ✓ The venue has a constant power supply for lighting, air conditioner, fan and audio visual aids
- ✓ Vaccine fridge has back up power
- ✓ The ventilation (using secure windows) promotes the participants concentration
- ✓ There is a system for heating/cooling the air e.g. fan, air conditioner, heater for use when required by the ambient temperature
- ✓ Flexible, comfortable seating using mats with wedges / back support or chairs is provided



## 1.1 Physical standards cont

- ✓ The lighting – both natural and artificial, facilitates learning
- ✓ The venue is situated within easy access of the target group
- ✓ The venue is close to a main road and the public transport system or taxi route
- ✓ The venue is safe and secure (should be a security gate, an alarm, a panic button and armed response service.)
- ✓ Safe parking is provided for all the clients.





## 1.2 Educational standards

- ✓ A variety of non-electronic audiovisual aids are available including at least a model doll and pelvis, soft model of the breast and a variety of teaching posters
- ✓ A variety of electronic visual aids including TV, DVDs, Laptop and projector (or laptop projects on TV) is available and in working order
- ✓ The minimum requirement of DVD teaching aids is a birth DVD depicting a range of birth options and a breastfeeding DVD
- ✓ A suitable storage system exists to house all teaching aids and equipment



### 1.3 Personal standards

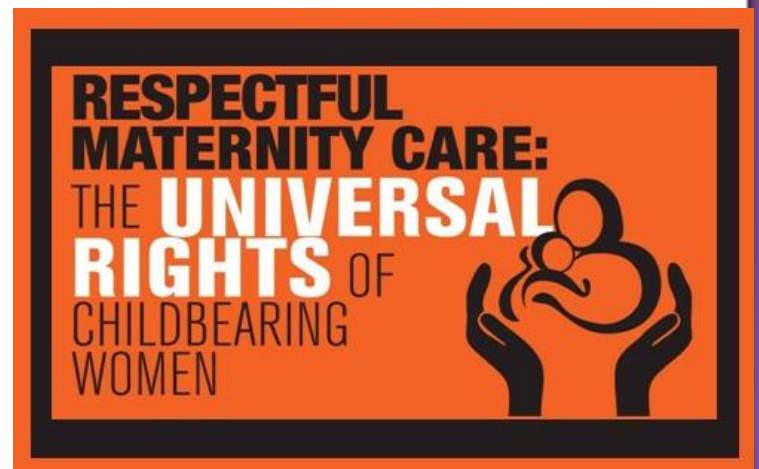
- ✓ The perinatal educator provides easily accessible information on her services including at least (the minimum of) a brochure and or website, with email facilities.
- ✓ The Perinatal educator's credentials are clearly displayed together with her private practice registration number



## 1.2. The perinatal practitioner's knowledge, skills and attitudes enhance the learning experience of the clients.



- ✓ The perinatal educator holds a recognized tertiary level qualification – SACPE, SACLC, ICEA, IBLC.
- ✓ The perinatal educator has records of attending a minimum of 3 update sessions of total 24 hours per year run by an accredited educational institution.
- ✓ The perinatal educator provides a service with consideration of culture, language, education and literacy levels of the target group.
- ✓ The perinatal educator acknowledges the role of culture and language on the class evaluation process.



- ✓ The perinatal educator has a positive, respectful manner which puts clients at ease. This criteria needs to be assessed in the course evaluation.
- ✓ The perinatal educator initiates annual assessment by an approved assessor for at least one class per year. The assessors report is kept on file.
- ✓ The perinatal educator has a contract with the clients to do the teaching herself – meeting the clients expectations.
- ✓ Deemed unprofessional and unethical to allow “reps” / outsiders in to talk at the classes. Clients and medical aids are paying for a professional service





### 1.3 The perinatal educator keeps in depth records of her clients and her services.



- ✓ The perinatal educator administers a client questionnaire on booking the client into the practice and develops a client profile
- ✓ The perinatal educator maintains an attendance register for all classes and services she offers



**1.4. The perinatal education curriculum provides for the learning needs of pregnant women in the local community**



*Freedom  
of choice  
based on the  
knowledge  
of alternatives*



- ✓ The perinatal educator provides the public, on enquiry, and all her clients with a statement of her approach and philosophy towards childbirth and childrearing.
- ✓ The practice curriculum is based on up to date evidence in the perinatal field. The educator has records of scientific references of the evidence in favour of evidence based practice.
- ✓ The educator maintains a portfolio of evidence and a record of ongoing update training
- ✓ The practice curriculum provides for informed choice based on the knowledge of alternatives.

*Researched evidence*

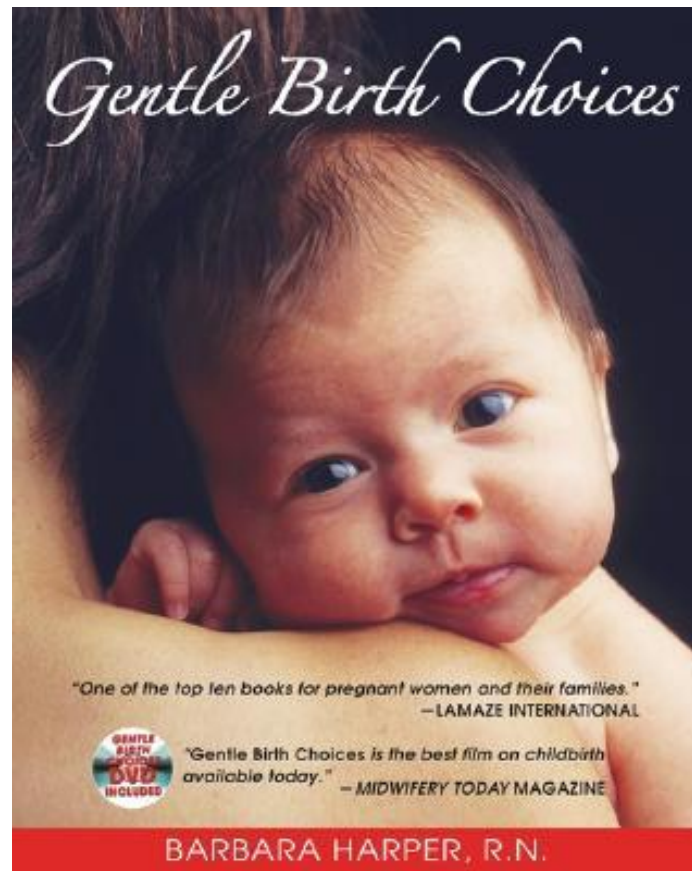
- ✓ The course curriculum includes learning outcomes
- ✓ The lesson plans for each subject being taught reflect informed choice based on the knowledge of alternatives
- ✓ The practice curriculum covers antenatal, intrapartal and postnatal issues
- ✓ The practice curriculum provides for sufficient flexibility so that the perinatal educator can respond to additional identified client needs





## 2. Process standards

2.1. The perinatal program enables / encourages clients to make realistic /informed decisions / choices about their birth experience.



- ✓ The lesson plans indicate that a variety of teaching techniques are being used
- ✓ The perinatal educator encourages healthy debate in all sessions
- ✓ Active steps are taken in classes to encourage client participation



**2.2. The programme encourages positive relationships between clients and their health care providers to facilitate safe/satisfying birth experiences / outcomes.**



- ✓ Clients are guided in drawing up an individualized birth and parenting plan
- ✓ Clients are assisted in reviewing this birth plan with their doctor/midwife
- ✓ The perinatal educator actively promotes family centered maternity care. The content of the course curriculum should encourage family member participation.



### 2.3. The relationships between the perinatal practice and stakeholders promotes the provision of improved maternal health care in the community





- ✓ The perinatal educator interacts frequently and positively with stake holders such as the local maternity units and other health professionals.
- ✓ There is evidence of meetings between the perinatal educator and local doctors and midwives
- ✓ The perinatal educator actively participates in networking opportunities by attending the Professional Forum roadshows and other clinical update events.



**2.4. The business practices of the perinatal practice comply with legislation and best practice standards for small businesses.**



- ✓ The perinatal educator is registered with the South African Nursing Council, the Board of Health Funders and the South African Revenue Service
- ✓ All the perinatal educator's clients sign an indemnity waiver.
- ✓ The indemnity waiver is stored securely for a minimum of 5 years as per legal requirement
- ✓ The perinatal educator has proof of current indemnity (liability) cover.

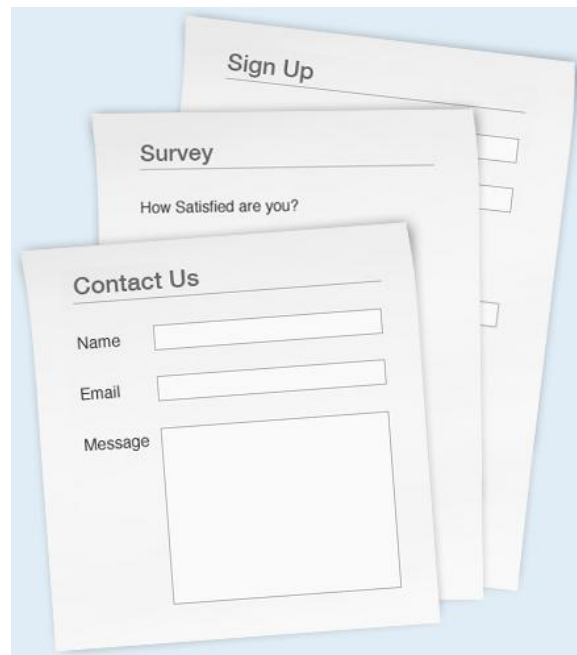


- ✓ The perinatal educator stores all documentation on her services safely for the minimum of 5 years.
- ✓ The perinatal educator provides for UIF/PAYE and Workman's Compensation for employees of her practice.
- ✓ The perinatal educator maintains a master file of all the Acts and legislation relating to her practice as an independent midwife.



### 3. Outcomes

3.1. Provision is made for clients to provide feedback on their experience in the practice to enable continued quality improvement.





- ✓ A system is in place for clients to evaluate each course . These evaluations are reviewed and a written conclusion kept on file with the evaluation forms.
- ✓ The perinatal educator performs a regular self-audit on the quality of her practice, using a self-audit tool.
- ✓ The perinatal educator is encouraged to maintain a reflective diary of her practice



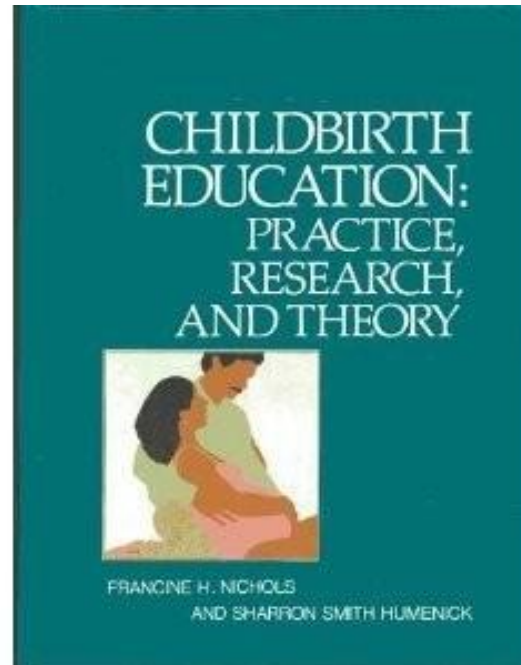
**3.2. The perinatal practice has a system in place to monitor the success of the practice in the local community.**



- ✓ The data base of the practice reflects the success of the practice in the number of referrals the educator receives within the practice's community.
- ✓ Records reflect the sustainability of the practice i.e. The income is greater than the expenses. Statistics are kept of the number of clients using each aspect of the service.



### 3.3 The perinatal educator audits the quality of education and service rendered by her practice.



- ✓ The perinatal educator has a comprehensive self-audit tool on record and evidence of quarterly self-audits.
- ✓ The perinatal educator has evidence of at least one peer review of her practice and services at least annually.





#### 4. Conclusion summary :



- ✓ The perinatal educator has fully complied with the standards laid out in this document.
- ✓ The perinatal educator has partially complied with the standards laid out in this document.
- ✓ The perinatal educator has shown inadequate compliance of the standards laid out in this document.



## Comments

- ✓ Need to be in writing
- ✓ Have until the 15<sup>th</sup> April to comment
- ✓ Document can be downloaded from [www.cbepf.co.za](http://www.cbepf.co.za)
- ✓ Comments to [babytalk@mweb.co.za](mailto:babytalk@mweb.co.za)

