

MIDWIFERY CAREER

Read the text. Fill the gaps with one appropriate word each. Then answer the questions below:

babies *play* *born* *period* *fathers* *work* *in* *hospital* *very* *higher* *of*

Career in midwifery

Many midwives say that they are fortunate because they 1..... an important role in preparing women for the delivery and helping new babies into the world. Their support is 2..... important during the pregnancy, during all stages of the labour and in the early postnatal 3..... The job brings a lot of satisfaction, yet it is a very demanding and responsible task. Many midwives now 4..... in the community and they provide services in women's homes, local clinics, children's centres and GP surgeries. Midwives can also work in hospitals on antenatal, labour and postnatal wards and neonatal units. Sometimes a midwife can combine work at the 5..... with the work for the community.

Career options in more detail

The role of a midwife does not only include delivering 6..... Midwives are also involved in antenatal and postnatal care. They offer support and education. They work in the community and help mothers and 7..... prepare for parenthood. They give help, provide counselling and give advice on breastfeeding.

Being a midwife is a career with incredible prospects for advancement. As a midwife gains more knowledge and expertise, he or she can move to a 8..... position as a senior practitioner and become a team or unit manager. A unit/team manager can combine managing staff with hands-on involvement with clients. There is also a possibility of becoming a consultant midwife. A consultant midwife provides clinical leadership for midwives and others across maternity services.

Another possibility is to specialise 9..... a particular area of perinatal care and study for more qualifications. During the postgraduate studies you can carry out research to help move the profession forward. You could start cooperating with a university and teach future midwives. The highest rank 10..... midwives hold managing posts within NHS and influence the shape of healthcare across the country.

If need be a midwife could also move into other professions such as neonatal nursing or health visiting. Neonatal nurses concentrate on treatment and care of women and babies with health complications around birth: for example, helping premature babies to get through the critical first few days after they are 11.....

1. Are the prospects similar in Poland?
2. What do you need to do to get ahead in your career as a midwife?
3. Which area of midwifery would you like to specialize in? Why?

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