

Obstetrics

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A. Occupations

1) Midwife

- Midwifery is a regulated health profession in Ontario - College of Midwives
<http://www.cmo.on.ca>

Role

Source: <http://www23.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/2001/e/groups/3232.shtml>

- Midwives provide full-course care to women and their babies during pregnancy, labour, birth and the post-natal period including monitoring the health of mother and baby, counseling and providing advice on diet, conducting routine deliveries and assisting in complicated deliveries.

Educational Requirements

- Midwives require appropriate training, which may be acquired through a university degree in midwifery or its equivalent and a period of supervised practical training
- There is a 4 years baccalaureate program offered out of three universities in Ontario (McMaster, Ryerson and Laurentian)
- See the Ontario Association of Midwives web site for detailed information
http://www.aom.on.ca/About/Becoming_a_Midwife.aspx

Skills/Qualities

Technical

- Basic computer skills: word processing, internet, email, presentation programs, spreadsheet manipulation and database knowledge

Communication

- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Other

- Hands-on skills to assist women in birthing babies
- Ability to work well under intense pressure
- Good physical and mental health
- Compassion and an interest in caring for others
- Flexibility
- Maturity and emotional stability to instill confidence and deal with emergency situations
- Good organizational skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills

Typical Employers

Source: http://www.settlement.org/sys/apt_detail.asp?faq_id=4000623#get

Midwives are employed in hospitals, clinics, health units, birthing centres and private practice.

Average Hourly Wage

Source:

http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca/standard.asp?ppid=81&lcode=E&prov=35&gaid=4663&occ=3232&search_key=3

\$31.73 (average) \$37.02 (high) \$26.44 (low)

According to the Ministry of Health, Starting salaries for midwife graduates are \$55,000, while 12 years of experience midwives receive \$77,000 per year.

Source: http://www.aom.on.ca/About/Becoming_a_Midwife.aspx

Currently, the midwifery compensation scale has 12 levels, beginning at \$55,000 for Level 1 and increasing to a maximum of \$77,000 at Level 12. A midwife's place on this scale depends on her number of years of experience in Ontario and on the number of clients for whom she provides care in a year.

Salaries vary according to such factors such as experience, level of responsibility, seniority, size of company, size of city, etc.

8) Other Positions in the Field of Diagnostics/Therapeutics

Labour coach or Birth Doula is a woman trained and experienced in childbirth who provides continuous physical, emotional, and informational support to a woman during labor, birth and the immediate postpartum period. Postpartum Doulas care for new families in the first weeks after birth providing household help, advice with newborn care and feeding, and emotional support. Source: <http://www.mother-care.ca/lbd.htm>

Lamaze Childbirth Educator (LCCE) guides women through the maze of modern obstetrics so that they are able to make truly informed decisions about their health care. They are skilled teachers, knowledgeable professionals and passionate advocates for women and their families who encourage women to work actively with labour, finding comfort in response to what they are feeling.

Source: http://www.michener.ca/ce/postdiploma/lamaze_program.php

Childbirth Educators and Doulas are generally self-employed. Most doulas are independent whereas most childbirth educators work within a hospital or clinic setting. However, there are independent educators and many hospital based doula programs as well.

B) Labour Market Prospects

Source:

http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca/standard.asp?ppid=84&lcode=E&prov=35&gaid=4687&occ=3232&search_key=3&search_type=1&employer_potential=1&new_search=false

Employment potential for the field is good. Physician shortages, increased demand for alternative health care services and a growing public awareness of the occupation has helped to fuel this demand. Midwives are occupation that is both regulated and covered by Ontario's Health Insurance Plan (OHIP). Under these regulations the provincial government determines how many

new graduates are allowed to practice each year. Those entering from another country are required to take a two-year training course in order to practice in Ontario.

C) ITPs in the Field

Many obstetrician-gynecologists and family physicians are most prepared to work in this field as they are experienced in providing care to women and their babies during pregnancy, labour and the post-natal period as well as counseling and providing advice on diet and lifestyle during the pre- and post-natal period.

D) Links

Educational Institutions

- Midwifery Educational Programs
<http://ca.geocities.com/canadianmidwives@rogers.com/links.html#educational>
- Training programs in Birth Doula <http://www.mother-care.ca/CDchart.html>
- Mother care web site information on Childbirth Educator training <http://www.mother-care.ca/beducator.htm>
- Michener Institute http://www.michener.ca/ce/postdiploma/lamaze_program.php
- Humber College <http://healthsciences.humberc.on.ca/cbed.htm>

Professional Organizations

- College of Midwives of Ontario
<http://www.zfc-consulting.com/webprojects/midwives/mss/home/index.asp>
- Association of Ontario Midwives <http://www.aom.on.ca/>
- Canadian Association of Midwives <http://ca.geocities.com/canadianmidwives@rogers.com/>
- Canadian Doula Association web site <http://www.canadiandoulas.com>

Related Web Sites

- Mother Care web site <http://www.mother-care.ca/>
- Labour Market Information, HRDSC <http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca>