



Guideline for the internship of Year 4 midwives in training (VIO) during the corona crisis

April 2020

Colofon

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*Commissioned by the cooperating colleges for midwifery (SOV) and the KNOV.
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Reason

In March 2020, the KNOV and the SOV jointly requested the work field to ensure that the primary healthcare internships of the fourth and fifth-year of the midwifery training programmes are continued as much as possible. This promotes the graduation pace and the influx of new graduates in the work field. There are some ongoing regional agreements in VSV (Midwifery Partnership) about the way midwifery care is arranged. Due to current circumstances, midwives in training (VIOs) are no longer welcome to hospitals.

Objective of the guideline

To provide the best possible direction for the best possible results of the Year 4 internships during the corona crisis. To realise the graduation of the VIOs, with as little delay as possible, and to continue the influx in the work field.

Frameworks

RIVM guidelines on hygiene and corona measures.

KNOV guidelines on midwifery care during the corona crisis.

Legally established general administrative regulation for midwife training programmes.

Current Education and Examination Regulations of the three midwife training institutes.

Current situation in terms of practical internship

- *Prenatal care*
In some practices, the VIOs can carry out telephone consultations. They can independently conduct physical examinations, while in other practices the VIOs cannot be involved because of contact risks.
- *Natal care*
The VIOs can be actively involved during the home birth, in cooperation with the midwives, unless there is a maternity assistant present. A VIO cannot be included in a birth at an outpatient clinic, or a birth referred to secondary healthcare.
- *Postnatal care*
The VIOs can perform telephone consultations and, if necessary, make home visits, with the accompanying midwife possibly present remotely by telephone.

Bottlenecks

The VIOs cannot go to the hospital after they have referred clients during a birth. This means they cannot complete the birth. They also cannot participate in procedures such as episiotomies in secondary healthcare. Nor can they finish a birth under the guidance of clinical midwives in secondary healthcare.

- VIOs cannot perform complete face-to-face consultations, both prenatal and postnatal, which means that physical examinations can only be performed to a limited extent. As a result, their experience in diagnostics (including risk selection) and policy-making activities may be limited.
- The course toward graduation and the time and duration of the internship in year 4 differ per training programme. The VIOs from the AVAG have already started their internship, VIOs from the VAR and AVM will start soon or in a few weeks.
- Protective measures also require personal protection equipment for VIOs, but these are scarce.

Guidelines

The midwifery training colleges realise that the internships for Year 4 cannot be standard this year, due to the corona crisis. The training practices and the colleges must cooperate, enabling the Year 4 VIOs to complete their internship and graduate.

We choose not to impose a one-size-fits-all solution for the practices, but to offer a customised solution for each individual practice and VIO. This means that the training colleges are actively and intensively communicating with the internship practice before, during and after the internship.

Before the internship

- The training college and the internship practice discuss the content and design of the internship. Next, the VIO writes an internship action plan, describing how they intend to achieve their learning goals/final objectives in these circumstances. Before the start of the internship, any restrictions, and how they can be overcome, will be documented. These agreements are recorded in writing.

During the internship

- The training college regularly contacts the internship practice by telephone. The frequency is determined by the needs of the practice, the VIO and the training college. In a three-way discussion with the VIO and the internship practice, we discuss how the agreements are implemented in this adjusted situation.
- We discuss the bottlenecks that affect the achievement of the end-level competencies and document possible solutions.
- The evaluation and/or assessment moments take place according to the regular internship agreements.

Completion of the internship

- In a three-way discussion with the VIO and the training college, the VIO will discuss the extent to which the VIO can complete the internship at the end of the term and to what extent the VIO has been able to work on their end-level competencies during their internship. This discussion also determines the extent to which the limiting circumstances have played a role in reaching the end level.
 - a) If the internship has not provided adequate learning opportunities, the college will discuss whether and to what extent additional measures need to be taken to achieve the desired end level. These agreements are reviewed by the Board of Examiners of the relevant training college.
 - b) If the VIO has been able to take part in all aspects of midwifery care (with the exception of a delivery in a hospital), the training practice/college/VIO can, in consultation, decide that the internship has provided sufficient learning opportunities.

Note

The training colleges remain responsible for determining the assessment of the internship and for determining whether the end-level qualifications have been achieved.

The college undertakes to support the VIO and the practices that have provided an internship during the corona crisis, to have this VIO graduate as soon as possible, within the framework of the programme.

If the client is treated per the protocol for protective measures, the options of the VIO during the internship will be limited. This measure is designed to minimise additional risks for the VIO and the client.

