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Highlights from the RCOG/ RCM survey
Clinical Learning Environment

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Student Midwives' Conference
16th November 2010

RCM/RCOG Survey

- **RCM/RCOG working party to examine the factors influencing recruitment to midwifery and obstetrics**
- **Published a report clinical learning environment and recruitment in 2008**
- **RCM /RCOG survey from February to July 2009 to address specific issues in clinical environment**

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Responses

Student midwives - 870
Medical students -1695

Gender ratio:-

Student midwives (STM)- female: 99.3%
male: 0.7%

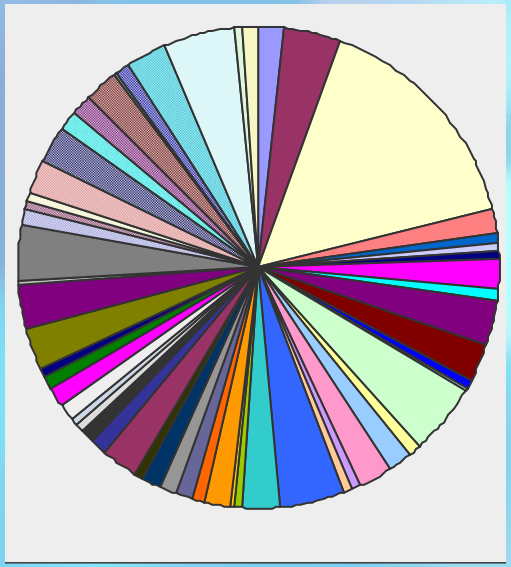
Medical students (MDS)- female: 67.1%
male: 32.7%

Range of university students UK wide

Responses from 76 institutions

Responses from 59 Universities/ Schools of Midwifery

Number of responses per institution range between 1 and 129



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Contact with Mentors

- By day one: 92.9 % (stm) 90 % mds
- knew the name of their Mentor
- Information about placement…
- Teaching in placement…

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Clinical placement schedule / weekly timetables

86.1% of both categories of students were aware of the clinical placement schedule by the first day

Learning resources and achieving learning outcomes

All (relevant) members of staff showed interest in students needs – 77.4% stm 59% mds

Development of problem solving skills:
As an individual -88.5%
As part of interprofessional activity – 73.5% /88%

Learning resources were available during the placement – 76.4%/ 94%

Provided with an opportunity to achieve learning outcomes – 91.5% /83%

Encouraged to ask questions openly – 93%/80%

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Interprofessional learning

Observation and discussion of an interprofessional approach to care – 93.2% / 88%

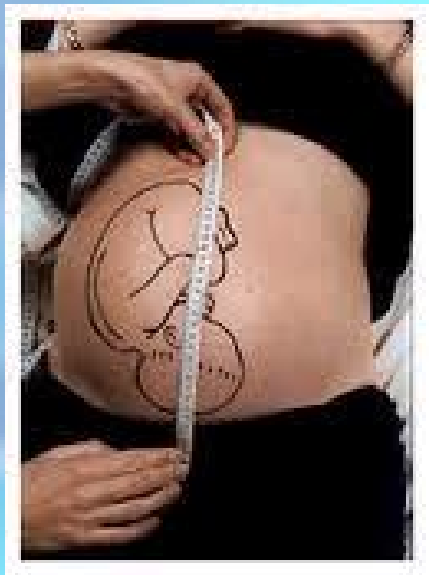
Discussion of potential learning opportunities with clinical / teaching staff – 88% / 83%

Constructive feedback assisted students learning – 86% / 70%

Gaining consent - difficulties when offering V.E.'s/clinical procedures

- Vaginal examinations – 20% / 50%
- Other clinical procedures – 9% / 27%

had any difficulty gaining consent



Why?

- Lack of support from midwives
- Women's choice esp. mds
- Women's discomfort re. two procedures
- Lack of experience/confidence
- Opportunities did not arise

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Continuity of Care

70.9% / 43% mds felt able to personally extend the continuum of care

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Safety

92.6% stm /94% mds felt safe moving around the hospital/unit at night

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Bullying and Harrassment
Student midwives
MDS responses not analysed yet

Between 16% and 24.5% observed bullying and/or harassment of staff on first three placements

54.1% - 61.4% observed Midwives carrying out bullying

10.2%-14.5% observed Consultant Obstetrician / Gynaecologists carrying out bullying

Senior midwives - 48.9%
Junior midwives – 5.7%
Student midwives – 2.3%

Registrar – 12.5%
Junior/student doctors- 0%
Other – 13.6%

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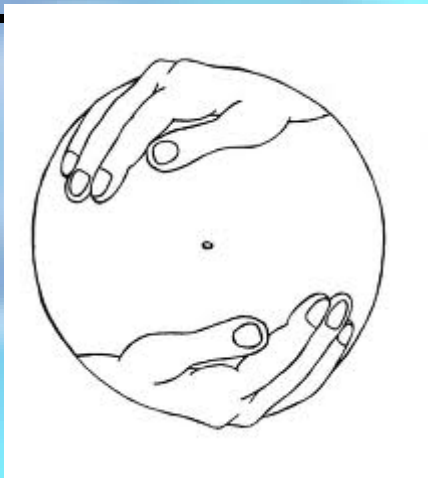
Recommending placements to others

94.4% /80% of students felt they would recommend their placement to others.



High points:

- Grew in confidence, gained new skills
- Team midwifery, supportive environment
- Experienced and approachable mentors
- Good variety of experience
- Enjoyed working with women and babies and gaining their trust
- Constructive learning and met learning outcomes

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Low points

- Lack of communication
- Lack of mentorship – staff too busy
- Lack of continuity
- Bullying culture
- Mentors unwilling to have students
- Some staff not interested in students learning needs
- Favouritism
- Lack of flexibility when arranging shifts / timetables
- Understaffed, hectic environment, therefore inappropriate workload and less time with mentor
- Too few mentors to go round

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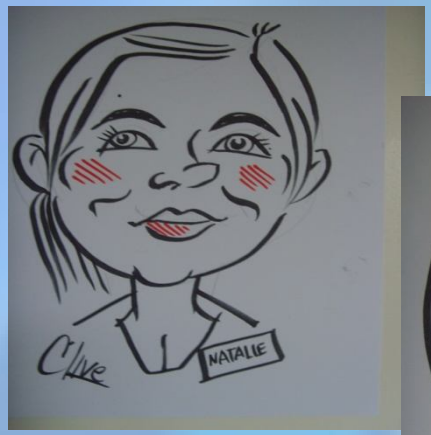
Your comments / SMWG



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