



UNIVERSITY OF
WEST LONDON
The Career University

Perinatal Loss Proficiency Framework

Dr. Julie Jones

Tuesday 9 August 2022



Perinatal Loss Proficiency Framework

Theme 1: Practical Clinical Skills

- Importance of still providing routine AN/intrapartum/PN care.
- Knowledge of terminology and legal definitions.
- Knowledge of steps to diagnose IUD.
- Knowledge of blood tests performed and reasons why.
- Knowledge of drugs used (including side effects) for IOL.
- Knowledge of pain relief options including PCA and epidural.
- Knowledge of impact of environment where families are cared for and recommendations/local provisions for this.
- Discussion and knowledge of the differences of delivering a baby who has died at differing gestations up to term and effect of lack of muscle tone.
- Experience/knowledge of what a baby looks like at differing gestations including maceration: with parental consent.
- Know how to handle baby with respect and safely.
- Knowledge of equipment available (ie cold cot); how to use and where located.
- Knowledge of processes and equipment available for making memories including taking photographs.
- Knowledge of PM consent; histology; cytogenetics; role of the coroner.
- Understanding of the options for lactation suppression.
- Discussion around best practice when unable to determine sex of baby.
- Understand role of the Bereavement Specialist Midwife and work with them for a day.

Theme 2: Emotional and Spiritual Support

- Understand the need for you to be patient, not give false assurances and allow parents time to spend with their baby; be parent led.
- Understand that grief is individual and not governed by gestation.
- Ensure cultural and religious beliefs are acknowledged and incorporated into plan of care.
- Have knowledge of all support materials available (written and online) including support groups and charities and how to discuss these with parents.
- Have knowledge of contact information for relevant members of the MDT within the Trust including the Chaplaincy and the support they can provide.
- Gain an understanding of the long lasting and positive effect of good care and the negative, long-lasting effect of poor care. Includes understanding the longevity and uniqueness of the loss of a baby.



Theme 3: Communication

- How to break bad news.
- Knowledge of grief reactions and individual nature of grief surrounding loss of a baby at any gestation.
- How to approach discussions around making memories and wishes of parents around delivery; meeting baby.
- Understand the impact of the environment on any communication; includes giving parents time to process information and make decisions.
- Experience/observe sensitive communication including how to offer choice and be sensitive to cultural and religious needs of parents.
- Gain an understanding of the importance of using baby's name if one is given.

Theme 4: Paperwork

- Become familiar with the care pathway used locally and the National Bereavement Care Pathway led by SANDS. Includes understanding the importance and significance of each point (some following competencies will be covered within this but are detailed specifically at present).
- Essential to know how to refer families to the Bereavement Specialist Midwife.
- Understand a midwife can complete a stillbirth certificate; includes experience of how to complete this correctly and the consequences if it is not.
- Understand a doctor must complete a neonatal death certificate; includes experience of how to complete this correctly and the consequences if it is not.
- Have knowledge of all local paperwork available for babies lost before 24 weeks gestation; includes all transfer paperwork for all losses within the hospital and from hospital to funeral director.
- Introduction to the MBRRACE form for reporting any losses to aid understanding of how this can inform and improve practice.
- Gain understanding of the processes within the Trust for ensuring all future appointments (USS, AN) are cancelled; CMW informed.

Perinatal Loss Proficiency Framework: Content mapped to three-year course

Year 1

Theme content

- Importance of still providing routine AN/intrapartum/PN care.
 - Knowledge of terminology and legal definitions.
 - Knowledge of impact of environment where families are cared for and recommendations/local provisions for this.
 - Discussion and knowledge of the differences of delivering a baby who has died at differing gestations up to term and effect of lack of muscle tone.
 - Experience/knowledge of what a baby looks like at differing gestations including maceration: with parental consent.
 - Know how to handle baby with respect and safely.
 - Knowledge of processes and equipment available for making memories including taking photographs.
- Understand the need for you to be patient, not give false assurances and allow parents time to spend with their baby; be parent led.
 - Understand that grief is individual and not governed by gestation.
 - Ensure cultural and religious beliefs are acknowledged and incorporated into plan of care.
- Understand the impact of the environment on any communication; includes giving parents time to process information and make decisions.
 - Experience/observe sensitive communication including how to offer choice and be sensitive to cultural and religious needs of parents.
 - Gain an understanding of the importance of using baby's name if one is given.
 - Experience/observe sensitive communication including how to offer choice and be sensitive to cultural and religious needs of parents.

Guidance for implementation

- Map to what is already included in modules. For example, when discussing AN/IP/PN care add content for caring for families experiencing stillbirth/ToPFA/NND.
- Establish a teaching session(s) to deliver the content and link to future sessions to demonstrate scaffolding of learning and relevance to ongoing training.
- Link to National Bereavement Care Pathway as a teaching resource.
- Map to relevant proficiencies in the MORA; establishes link with theory and practice. This also demonstrates what areas can be either experienced or consolidated in practice ie knowledge of how to handle a baby with respect and safely.

Year 2

Theme content

- Understand the role of the Bereavement Specialist Midwife and work with him/her for a day.
 - Discussion and knowledge of the differences of delivering a baby who has died at differing gestations up to term and effect of lack of muscle tone.
 - Experience/knowledge of what a baby looks like at differing gestations including maceration: with parental consent.
 - Knowledge of blood tests performed and reasons why.
 - Knowledge of drugs used (including side effects) for IOL.
 - Knowledge of pain relief options including PCA and epidural.
- Have knowledge of all support materials available (written and online) including support groups and charities and how to discuss these with parents.
 - Have knowledge of contact information for relevant members of the MDT within the Trust including the Chaplaincy and the support they can provide.
 - Gain an understanding of the long lasting and positive effect of good care and the negative, long-lasting effect of poor care. Includes understanding the longevity and uniqueness of the loss of a baby.
- How to break bad news.
 - Knowledge of grief reactions and individual nature of grief surrounding loss of a baby at any gestation.
- Gain understanding of the processes within the Trust for ensuring all future appointments (USS, AN) are cancelled; CMW informed.

Guidance for implementation

- Have links with the bereavement midwives in the Trusts so student placement with them can be facilitated.
- Sim day for breaking bad news; delivery of baby with no signs of life at 20, 28 and 37 weeks gestation (demonstrate link to yr 1 content).
- Summary of all tests conducted including blood and HVS for unexplained loss with rationale for these.
- Link to National Bereavement Care Pathway as a teaching resource.
- Map to relevant proficiencies in the MORA; establishes link with theory and practice. This also demonstrates what areas can be either experienced or consolidated in practice ie Gain understanding of the processes within the Trust for ensuring all future appointments (USS, AN) are cancelled; CMW informed.

Year 3

Theme content

- Knowledge of PM consent; histology; cytogenetics; role of the coroner.
- Understanding of the options for lactation suppression.
- Discussion around best practice when unable to determine sex of baby.
- Become familiar with the care pathway used locally and the National Bereavement Care Pathway led by SANDS. Includes understanding the importance and significance of each point (some following competencies will be covered within this but are detailed specifically at present).
- Essential to know how to refer families to the Bereavement Specialist Midwife.
- Understand a midwife can complete a stillbirth certificate; includes experience of how to complete this correctly and the consequences if it is not.
- Understand a doctor must complete a neonatal death certificate; includes experience of how to complete this correctly and the consequences if it is not.
- Have knowledge of all local paperwork available for babies lost before 24 weeks gestation; includes all transfer paperwork for all losses within the hospital and from hospital to funeral director.
- Introduction to the MBRRACE form for reporting any losses to aid understanding of how this can inform and improve practice.

Guidance for implementation

- Final teaching session (s) that consolidates prior learning and includes post-mortem.
- Link to National Bereavement Care Pathway as a teaching resource.
- Map to relevant proficiencies in the MORA; establishes link with theory and practice. This also demonstrates what areas can be either experienced or consolidated in practice ie Essential to know how to refer families to the Bereavement Specialist Midwife.





UNIVERSITY OF
WEST LONDON
The Career University

