

**DRAFT Defined Award Standards for
Maternity - Pre-nursing Care Skills
(Minor Award, NFQ Level 5)**

Award Title	Maternity - Pre-nursing Care Skills
Teideal as Gaeilge	[To be translated]
Award Class	Minor Award
Level	NFQ Level 5 EQF Level 4
Credit Value	15 FET Credits
Mandatory/Elective	Elective

Purpose

This award is intended to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill, and competence required to assist midwives in providing holistic, individualised care to mothers, babies, and the family unit. Learners will understand the philosophy of maternity care and support safe, person-centred practices during the transition to motherhood, while promoting dignity, respect, and non-judgmental care.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the transition to motherhood and the philosophy of maternity care, including its impact on mothers, babies, and families, while promoting non-judgmental and individualised care.
2. Summarise the physical, emotional, and social needs of mothers during antepartum, intrapartum, and postpartum periods.
3. Evaluate the benefits and challenges of breastfeeding, while supporting individual choice.
4. Investigate infection prevention and control measures critical to maternity care settings.

5. Demonstrate an understanding of the grief process in cases of miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death, or maternal death, and show awareness of emotional needs of families, for example following the diagnosis of congenital abnormalities in their babies.
6. Apply safety and security procedures, such as identity tag checks and operational systems, to ensure the safety of infants.
7. Develop clinically relevant skills, including assisting with examinations, preparing clinical areas, and caring for specialised equipment.
8. Respond efficiently to emergency situations involving mothers or babies, including clearing airways, patient positioning, and reporting incidents.

Access

To access programmes leading to the above awards, learners should have achieved the knowledge, skills, and competence associated with NFQ Level 4 in the areas of literacy, numeracy, digital skills, communication, and personal effectiveness.

Learners must be able to communicate effectively with colleagues in the workplace through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This may be through a formal qualification or relevant life and work experience demonstrating equivalent learning.

Transfer

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Progression

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Learners may be assessed based on their prior knowledge and experience. This must be conducted in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the provider.

Specific Validation Requirements:

- Garda Vetting.
- Access to clinical learning environment (work base learning) with up-to-date equipment, fixtures and fittings, cleaning agents and materials, disinfectants, antiseptics, sterilisers, waste disposal and personal protective equipment.
- Access to an environment and equipment replicating the clinical setting (classroom).
- Work-based learning hours to be set in the application for validation.

Sector Specific Requirements:

- CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Assisted Mobility Training (Safe People Moving and Positioning Training) in accordance with current legislation and workplace health and safety policies.