

*"We have a secret in our culture which is not that birth is painful, but that women are strong";  
Laura Stavoe Harm*

Midwifery is a profession that is concerned with promoting women's health and protecting the normal process of childbirth. Midwives work with women in a partnership throughout their childbirth experience valuing continuity of care throughout a women's pregnancy, labour/birth and up to six weeks after the birth.

We:

- give preconception/health promotion information
- value informed choice and consent and focus our care on the women
- can prescribe when required
- are autonomous practitioners
- take full and comprehensive assessments of women in pregnancy, labour and postnatally either in the women's home, the community or at midwifery clinics
- take blood and insert cannulas (IV's)
- provide full care in labour either at home or in the hospital
- can resuscitate a baby if required
- take comprehensive assessments of the newborn baby
- refer and consult to other practitioners when required.

<b>Education required</b>	To become a midwife you need to have a Bachelor of Midwifery degree. Also an Annual Practising Certificate from the Midwifery Council of New Zealand.	
<b>Training offered by</b>	Otago Polytechnic School of Midwifery.	
<b>Perks!</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privileged position to be with women and their families during birth.</li> <li>• Travel.</li> <li>• Can work in a variety of settings.</li> <li>• Flexible hours.</li> </ul>	
<b>Links</b>	<a href="http://www.midwife.org.nz">www.midwife.org.nz</a> <a href="http://www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz">www.midwiferycouncil.org.nz</a> <a href="http://www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz">www.otagopolytechnic.ac.nz</a>	New Zealand College of Midwives Midwifery Council of New Zealand Otago Polytechnic School of Midwifery

