

MIDWIFERY EDUCATION:

What Can Perinatal Audit Outcomes Contribute?

Exploring the educational value of perinatal audits and the CanMEDS competencies involved

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Background

Perinatal audits are important quality-improvement tools in Dutch maternity care. They provide opportunities for multidisciplinary reflection and learning.

Aim

- Explore how perinatal audits contribute to midwifery education
- Identify which CanMEDS roles are most prominently addressed during audits

Perinatal audit Process



Dutch Audit Context

- Two audits per year
- Local perinatal cooperation groups
- Minimum of two cases discussed
- Multidisciplinary participation

Educational learning through CanMEDS Roles

Communicator

A client misunderstood instructions after rupture of membranes and contacted the midwife only via WhatsApp

Learning point

Clear communication and confirmation of understanding are essential for safe maternity care

Collaborator

The case was discussed by midwives, obstetricians and paediatricians. Retrospectively, involvement of social work would have been valuable

Learning point

Optimal care requires inclusion of all relevant disciplines

Health Advocate

A woman with type 2 diabetes declined induction at 38 weeks and preferred home birth. The pregnancy ended in perinatal mortality

Learning point

Risk communication and shared decision making are crucial components of advocacy.

Key Educational Outcomes

- 🎓 Experiential learning
- 🤝 Interprofessional collaboration
- 💬 Communication skills
- 🧠 Shared decision-making
- 🔍 Reflective practice
- 📈 Quality improvement

Main conclusion

Perinatal audits provide authentic learning opportunities that strengthen multiple CanMEDS competencies and enhance interprofessional education

Implications for Midwifery Education

- Integrate students into audit participation
- Use audit cases as teaching materials
- Incorporate CanMEDS – based reflection
- Establish feedback loops between audit outcomes and curriculum development