

Table 1 Reproductive health service package

Setting	Available tasks/interventions	Services not currently available which could be provided by midwives
Primary care – extensive primary health care network		
Primary health care centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preconception consulting • Marriage education • Routine pregnancy visits • Iron and folic acid supplementation programme • Preparation for childbirth programme • Postpartum care • Youth and adolescent health • In-school care of children • HIV prevention and education • Cervical screening test • Breast examination • Menopause care • Neonatal and child development care • Immunization of mothers and infants (according to the national vaccination calendar) • Prevention of accidents in childhood programme • National programmes related to mother and child health • Family planning services • Treatment of vaginitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human papilloma virus (HPV) management (diagnosis, vaccination) • Common gynaecological problem diagnosis and treatments • Pelvic examination • Sexual counselling • Safe abortion care^a • Physiological childbirth • Vaginal birth^b • STDs management
AIDS/ HIV centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine care of women with high-risk behaviour • Management of sexually transmitted infections • Sexual counselling • Care in sexual violence • HIV antibody testing • Patient education 	
Secondary and tertiary care – public hospitals		
Obstetrics and gynaecology clinics in hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common gynaecological problem diagnosis and treatments • Common gynaecological problems in girls • Management of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) • Pap smear test • Breast examination • Prenatal care • Postnatal care • Pelvic floor prolapse diagnosis • Information and follow-up of women's health problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual education and consultation • Education for puberty • Education for menopause • Women's self-care
Infertility wards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infertile couple's first evaluation • Care before and during outpatient procedures • Care before and during inpatient procedures • Care after infertility operations • Patient education and consultation 	
Obstetrics/gynaecology emergency departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triage of patients • Patient hospitalization process • Regular examinations of pregnant women • Care of nonemergency patients • The non-stress test/oxytocin challenge test • Care of outpatient emergency patients • Care of patients during hospitalization • Patient education and consultation 	

Table 1 Reproductive health service package (concluded)

Setting	Available tasks/interventions	Services not currently available which could be provided by midwives
Labour and delivery room	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mothers' education • Support of mothers during labour • Doula care • Nonpharmacological pain relief • Support of mothers for Entonox usage • Fill in partograph chart • Normal delivery • Episiotomy or lacerations: repair • Early postpartum care in labour • Skin-to-skin care on breastfeeding • Care of healthy neonates • Care of women with medical conditions during labour and birth^a • Induction and augmentation • High-risk delivery care^a • Assistance birth^a • Operative birth^a • Diagnostic tests • Blood and blood products infusion • Injection of drugs (antibiotics, anti-hypertensive drugs, magnesium sulphate, etc.) • Send patient for operations (caesarean section/curettage, etc.) • Resuscitation of mothers or neonates • Breastfeeding education • Discharge education • Telephone follow-up • Supporting mother re perinatal death • Safe abortion care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family support • External cephalic version • Alternative, complementary therapies • Water immersion in labour and birth • Physiologic childbirth • Home visits
Obstetrics/gynaecology wards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care for hospitalized women in the ward • Care for women before and after surgery • Education and consultation • Nursing care procedures 	
Neonatal ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neonatal transportation • Infant physical examination • Assessment for infant's well-being • Care of unhealthy neonates • Care of healthy neonates • Parent education 	

^aBased on the national abortion laws, midwives could have supportive roles in patient care. They can take part in interventions and consultations to reduce unsafe abortion, care for women during the interval between administration of medications and completion of abortion, and management of abortion complications. Currently, all the abortive cases are referred to hospitals.

^bIn the structure of the Iranian health network, natural childbirth is conducted by midwives in remote and rural areas at the first level of care, but this service is not possible in urban primary health centres. It is suggested to add the possibility of conducting natural childbirth to frontline services packages.