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A DELPHI STUDY TO VALIDATE COMPETENCY-BASED CRITERIA TO ASSESS UNDERGRADUATE MIDWIFERY STUDENTS' COMPETENCIES IN THE MATERNITY WARD*

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Abstract**Background**

Workplace learning plays a crucial role in midwifery education. Twelve midwifery schools in Flanders (Belgium) aimed to implement a standardized and evidence-based method to learn and assess competencies in practice. This study focuses on the validation of competency-based criteria to guide and assess undergraduate midwifery students' postnatal care competencies in the maternity ward.

Method

An online Delphi study was carried out. During three consecutive sessions, experts from workplaces and schools were invited to score the assessment criteria as to their relevance and feasibility, and to comment on the content and their formulation. A descriptive quantitative analysis, and a qualitative

* **Names of the institutions at which the research was conducted:** Midwifery Department, University College Arteveldehogeschool Ghent, Belgium.

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