

EXAMPLE OF LOW RISK: DELEGATE TASK



SITUATION

Mildred is a 40 year old lady who is having her first baby. She had a spontaneous normal delivery at term of a baby girl who weighed 3460g and is now day two following delivery. There have been no complications antenatally, during delivery or in the postnatal period and Mildred had been discharged six hours following delivery as specified in her birth plan. She is breastfeeding and has excellent family support. Staff Midwife Susan is responsible for Mildred's care following discharge.



ASSESSMENT

A person-centred midwifery assessment of mother and baby was completed by Staff Midwife Susan in the home environment on the first day following her delivery and there were no postnatal complications noted. Mother and baby are both doing well and Mildred's husband is off work for several weeks following the birth. There is a midwifery plan of care in place and Mildred is very keen to continue to exclusively breastfeed. Susan identified that Mildred would require additional breastfeeding support as this is her first baby and although the baby is latching onto the breast and feeding well Mildred expressed to Susan that she was a little anxious. Susan is aware that she may be able to delegate the breastfeeding support to a Maternity Support Worker and uses the decision support tool to confirm her initial professional judgement.



DECISION

Susan speaks to Jane, a Maternity Support Worker who has been working in this role for 8 years. She has undertaken specific training to assist the midwife in certain maternity tasks and duties and has also completed mandatory training in breastfeeding and support. She has updated her clinical knowledge and skills in breastfeeding, there is a process in place to ensure her competencies are assessed regularly and Jane is confident and competent to provide breastfeeding support to Mildred. Mother and baby's condition are currently stable and Jane understands that if there is any cause for concern the Mildred will require a midwifery review. Jane is also aware the process by which she should escalate any concerns. Susan works through all of the other areas of the decision support tool and identifies that all of the indicators are green allowing delegation to occur. Mildred is aware that she will receive breastfeeding support from Jane the following day and is very happy with the plan of care.

Susan delegates the task of providing breastfeeding support to Jane with a plan to perform a midwifery review the following day. Jane records the support given in the midwifery notes when she reviews the patient.