

# Interprofessional education in maternity care

In maternity care we aim for client-centred care. This requires intensive collaboration between care providers in maternity care. The Dutch organizations for midwives (KNOV) and obstetricians (NVOG) described the importance of the collaboration between both professional groups in their vision. However, this collaboration is currently in development and quality of collaboration between professional groups varies by region. Lecturers of the University of Midwifery Education & Studies (ZUYD University) and these professional organizations assume that they might contribute to the optimization of collaboration within maternity care by developing interprofessional education programs.

## Interprofessional education working group and collaboration in the faculty of Health

Lecturers from all study programmes within the faculty of Health and faculty of Social Studies are working together to design and implement an integral interprofessional educational objective. Relevant stakeholders are involved in this process and sustainable collaborative networks are created.





**IECP working group  
information  
faculty of Health**

For more information about INTER professional education at Zuyd please contact the team LIME education or the team INTER professional education.

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In 2014, researchers of the University of Midwifery Education & Studies performed a qualitative study among possible collaboration partners who were involved in maternity care and in educational programs for professionals in training. Key figures (n=16) were interviewed about interests and goals in relation to interprofessional collaboration and education. Results of this study gave insight in the extent to which possible collaboration partners were interested in developing interprofessional education programs. Two promising collaboration partners of the University of Midwifery Education & Studies were selected to develop two interprofessional educational activities. Development started in 2015.

**Aim of the study**

The ultimate goal was that trainers of midwives, obstetricians and other professionals in maternity care create interprofessional education programs together. For this study a step-by-step approach has been selected and two sub-goals were formulated:

1. Development of two educational activities by lecturers and professionals of both collaboration partners.
2. Implementation of these educational activities in the educational programs.

**Relevance**

The result of this project is an intensive collaboration with lecturers of the bachelor program Social Work of Zuyd University and caregivers of the department of Obstetrics of Zuyderland Medical Center in Heerlen. The project led to a two-day module for students Midwifery and students Social Work. This interprofessional module has been implemented in the second year of both bachelor programs.

The project also led to an interprofessional assignment for midwives in training and doctors in training for obstetrician. This assignment is performed during the clinical internship in the Zuyderland Medical Center. The midwives and doctors in training carry out a critical analysis of a topic (CAT) of their choice. They have to prepare this assignment together. First, they start with a literature study to the subject. They analyze the selected scientific articles, prepare a short presentation, and present this during the multidisciplinary meeting of primary and secondary caregivers in maternity care.

This project contributes to optimizing the collaboration between professionals involved in the care for (prospective) parents and their child. Better collaboration and alignment leads to better quality of care and satisfaction among professionals and promotes health of mother and child.