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Co-operation between midwives and medical doctors in the face of a terrorist threat

Statement of the Problem: At present, in the event of a mass terrorist attack, the possibility of a pregnant, birthing or postpartum woman and her newborn obtaining proper medical attention from a midwife is questionable. This situation is certainly a new challenge for midwives and physicians in Poland. The raised factors are vital issues and not limited to European Union. The main subject shall be adopted as a global problem.

Purpose of this study: The purpose of this study is to describe legal regulations defining the autonomy and scope of midwives duties to be a qualified independent medical professional to assist a pregnant, birthing and postpartum woman, her unborn child and/or her newborn, in an extreme situation, such as a terrorist attack.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: It was conducted that research-based analysis of the source materials consisting of the data derives from Supreme Chamber of Nurses and Midwives in Poland; National Council of Nurses and Midwives in Poland; Gazette of the Republic of Poland, Journal of Laws of 20 October 2015, Pos. 1739; Gazette of the Republic of Poland, Journal of Laws of 05 June 2012, Pos. 631; the European Resuscitation Council Guidelines for Resuscitation 2015; the EU law in force in Poland (European Commission, DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC National legislation: Law of 15 July 2011 on Nurse and Midwife Professions); curriculum outlines for professional midwifery higher education in Poland; scientific literature and recommendations.

Findings: In the study it was found a terrorist threat as a gap in the teaching of obstetrics and midwifery; restricted availability of pharmacological agents for use by midwives in event of a terrorist attack; lack of authorizations under a midwife license to perform perimortem Caesarean delivery (PMCD) in event of a terrorist attack.

Conclusions: A new implications are necessary for policy and practice to keep midwives in their profession to provide adequate quality and quantity of health care in event of a terrorist attack.

Biography

Dariusz Wojciech Mazurkiewicz holds Scientific Degree of Doctor of Medical Sciences in the Discipline of Medicine. He is a Graduate of Medical University, Technical University and Life Sciences University. He is educated and trained in the field of midwifery, health sciences, mental health, life sciences and hospital care investigation. He is a member of the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). He is scientifically focused on issues linked to: The impact of a mass terrorist attack on the health of an expectant mother and her fetus as well as the course of pregnancy and delivery; Mental disorders in victims of the world trade center attack on September 11,2001; Women's health and pregnancy problems issues.

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