



# *A Dedicated* Education Unit *for* Maternal- Newborn Nursing Clinical Education

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The dedicated education unit (DEU) model of clinical nursing education is rapidly gaining popularity. I conducted a keyword search in the CINAHL database (EBSCO Information Services, Ipswich, MA) and found 23 articles and one dissertation focused on the concept from the last 3 years. However, these articles primarily focused on general adult inpatient units in acute-care settings. I also found a few articles focused on other settings, such as long-term care, oncology, and school nursing, but I found no articles about the use of the DEU model of clinical education on maternal–newborn units.

In the curricula of many nursing schools, students' clinical learning experience in maternal–newborn nursing is limited to a single course. Therefore, providing a rich and practice-dense learning environment is critical. The DEU model of clinical education is a potential solution to the limited duration of clinical placements in this area of practice and is a strategy to enrich the quality of students' learning opportunities.

**Abstract:** Designing a quality maternal–newborn clinical practice experience for undergraduate nursing students is often challenging. A dedicated education unit (DEU) is a partnership model of clinical education in which students partner with a designated unit-based nurse in providing nursing care within a typical patient care assignment. This article describes the experience of implementing a DEU in a junior level (third year) nursing practice course in a bachelor of science in nursing program curriculum. A DEU model is a perfect fit for maternal–newborn clinical learning experiences and provides a win–win outcome for academic and clinical partners as well as safe patient care. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nwh.2015.12.005>

**Keywords:** clinical education | dedicated education unit | maternal–newborn nursing | self-directed learning

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