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Re-discussing the content of the prescription rights of midwives under certain circumstances using the Delphi method

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Original article**Re-discussing the content of the prescription rights of midwives under certain circumstances using the Delphi method**Shi-Fan Han ^{a,*}, Rui-Fang Zhu ^{a,b}, Jin-Lian Cheng ^a, Xiao-Ding Yue ^b^a *First Hospital of Shanxi Medical University*^b *Shanxi Medical University***ARTICLE INFO****Article history:**

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study sought to investigate the content of the prescription rights and the prescription types of midwives under certain circumstances in China.

Methods: The Delphi method was used to consult 18 nursing experts and 14 medical experts. A total of 30 experts finished the consulting. The reliability of the expert opinions was analyzed to determine the specific situations in which midwives may write prescriptions, the content of the prescription rights and the prescription types.

Results: In six specific circumstances (uterine contraction fatigue, uterine contractions that are too strong, postpartum hemorrhage, premature rupture of the membranes, normal delivery and neonatal asphyxia), midwives have the right to prescribe and administer medication, including 20 drugs and 13 auxiliary examinations. Of these drugs and examinations, 51.5% of the drugs and adjuvant examination prescriptions tend to be independent prescriptions, 30.3% tend to be protocol prescriptions, and 18.2% are similar to both types.

Conclusions: The midwives should be granted some prescription rights to enhance their autonomy and the professionalism of midwifery.

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