

## A new challenge for midwives and medical doctors in time of the threat of a mass terrorist attack and a life-threatening mass disaster

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**A** - Conception and study design; **B** - Collection of data; **C** - Data analysis; **D** - Writing the paper; **E** - Review article; **F** - Approval of the final version of the article; **G** - Other (please specify)

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### ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** To present the results of research and evaluation study of the legal regulations and rules directly linked and connected to midwives' scope of practice and provide a response on how the professional population of midwives can act as adequate and independent medical providers in the threat of a mass terrorist attack and/or a life-threatening mass disaster event.

**Materials and methods:** The data derives from the 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; curriculum outlines for professional midwifery higher education in Poland; scientific literature, scientific recommendations. The qualitative research method to the data sources in 2018 were used.

**Results:** In the event of a mass terrorist attack and/or a life-threatening mass disaster, the possibility of a

pregnant, birthing or postpartum woman and her newborn obtaining proper medical attention from a midwife is questionable.

**Conclusions:** The threat of terrorism in the European Union has grown. 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 mass terrorist attack and/or a life-threatening mass disaster. In our study we found: a terrorist threat as a gap in the teaching of obstetrics and midwifery; restricted availability of pharmacological agents for use by non-military midwives in event of a terrorist attack and/or a life-threatening mass disaster; lack of authorizations under a midwife license to perform PCD and /or PMCD.

**Keywords:** life-threatening mass disaster, terrorism, maternity care, PMCD, PCD, scope of practice

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