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Proposal)**

**Title: Exploring Nurses' and Midwives' Understanding of Policy Process,
their Roles, and Perceived Challenges**

Health policy is an important factor in advancing efforts to achieve universal health coverage. These policies are the decisions that affect individuals, health workers, and systems as well as communities. Healthcare professionals are among the stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of health policies. The bulk of healthcare workers are nurses and midwives, and they contribute to the improvement of the health system. Political activism and policymaking are two key advocacy roles that nurses and midwives can play to protect the public from bad policies and to address the flaws in the health system. However, some nurses do not participate in policy-making processes, even though their influence on health policy is evident. There could be a variety of reasons for nurses' and midwives' low participation rates in policymaking. This study seeks to explore the understanding of Ghanaian nurses and midwives regarding the policy process, their roles, and perceived challenges. The study will employ a qualitative exploratory descriptive design and 10 to 12 nurses and midwives will be purposefully selected from two hospitals in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. Data will be gathered through face-to-face interviews and analysed inductively using the framework approach. The study will reveal the level of understanding nurses and midwives in health policy formulation, the strategies that are used, their expected roles, and the challenges they perceive. Finding out how nurses' and midwives' comprehension of the policy process affects their participation in it could be a useful indicator to increase their involvement.

