

Instructions & Suggestions for Writing a “Notes from the Field” Quickening Column

Use the [ACNM Global Health Competencies and Skills](#) document to guide the content of your column. Pick one competency **OR** one skill area on which to focus your column and provide that information to the reader in under 1,000 words. Provide context for the reader with a small amount of background information about yourself, how you chose this experience, and the purpose of and reasons for the work. Always briefly describe the country and the organization. Use the questions below to guide the content of your column. Using one or two clear examples or stories will make your column more effective. Add interest by including a picture/pictures of you accomplishing the global health work.

Please send completed columns, your headshot, and a short bio to ACNM Division of Global Engagement Education Committee Chair, Jane Dyer, at Jane.Dyer@nurs.utah.edu. You can also contact Jane with questions.

Below are questions to guide your writing of your column for each competency and skill.

Global Understanding Competency

Prior to this experience, what was your understanding of the past, present, and anticipated future of maternal, newborn and reproductive global health? Based on this current experience what is your understanding now? Include your observations on global leadership, global health organizations, impact of events and environmental changes on global health, and evidence-based global health improvement efforts.

Global Understanding Skills

1. What previous knowledge of global health and global health work did you have before this experience? How did you gain your knowledge if not from previous global health experience?
2. Describe how you chose the work and (if applicable) the organization with which you are affiliated.
3. Describe the purpose of your work and (if applicable) role of the organization with which you are affiliated for this work.
4. What is the burden of disease and morbidity and mortality affecting women and newborns in the country? What is the local impact of climate change and environmental factors (i.e. clean water, air, sanitation, pollution, overcrowding, and food scarcity)? What's currently being done to improve these?
5. Describe examples of how your knowledge and background in this area impacted your work.

Clinical Practice Competency

How did you demonstrate safe and appropriate clinical practice in this experience, based on your knowledge of maternal, perinatal, and under 5 health and illnesses in resource-constrained settings?

Clinical Practice Skills

1. How did you acquire a solid clinical foundation with knowledge and experience that midwives/associate clinicians must possess to practice safely in resource-constrained settings? What were those specific clinical skills that you demonstrated?
2. What are the major physiologic causes of maternal, perinatal, and under age 5 mortality and morbidity in the country or area? Compare them to the major physiologic causes of maternal, perinatal, and under age 5 mortality and morbidity worldwide. How did this impact your work?
3. Describe the common infectious diseases endemic to the country/area, including the presentation, diagnosis, treatment and control measures for conditions including acute respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, malnutrition, meningitis, tuberculosis, HIV, and parasitic infections such as malaria and helminthic infections. Describe their unique impact in women, newborns and in pregnancy you observed in your work.
4. Describe chronic non-communicable diseases for the country/area including the prevention, presentation, diagnosis, treatment and management measures. Describe the double impact these diseases posed in your work especially for women and pregnant women.
5. What health issues did you observe that were encountered by vulnerable populations (immigrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and those with disabilities) including the sequela of late-stage presentations of untreated common illnesses?

Health Equity and Justice Competency

How did you apply the principles of health equity and justice in the provision of maternal, newborn and reproductive global health?

Health Equity and Justice Skills

1. Describe how cultural, social, economic, and political factors, as well as health systems and health workforce issues, are determinants of population health in the country.
2. What strategies did you employ to address health disparities across marginalized and vulnerable populations? How did you engage these populations in health care decision making? How did you develop and implement strategies to advocate for health and system change?

Professionalism/Ethics Competency

What challenges did you encounter that led you to demonstrate self-awareness, respect of and sensitivity towards others, flexibility, and ability to address ethical/professional issues in your global health experience?

Professionalism / Ethics Skills

1. What was your understanding of the importance of pre-departure training and post-return debriefing for work in a low resource setting prior to this experience? Did you participate actively in of pre-departure training and post-return debriefing? Did your opinion of the importance change? Were these opportunities available for all team members?

2. How would you have described your ability to adapt and function in a changing environment prior to the experience? After the experience?
3. Describe challenges during your experience in demonstrating intercultural sensitivity/humility and accept concepts/actions different than your own.
4. What did you learn about recognizing your own values, biases, limitations, and abilities from this experience? How did you adjust your actions to show an ability to relate, demonstrate respect, avoid stereotypical responses, and resolve common challenges?
5. Describe challenges in working respectfully with people different than yourself (age, gender, ethnicity, place of origin, religious/spiritual beliefs, political beliefs, educational level, marital or family status, physical or mental disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or criminal convictions).
6. How did you anticipate and analyze ethical issues, professional issues, and expected ethical challenges during your experience?

Communication Competency

How did you demonstrate effective, appropriate, and adaptive communication skills during your experience?

Communication Skills

1. Did you speak the language of the country/area prior to the experience? How did you gain that capability?
2. What challenges did you encounter in practicing effective and clear written and verbal communication?
3. Describe your use of a translator/interpreter and your ability to communicate effectively through another person.
4. What communication technology was available and used, especially across geographic distances?
5. Describe examples of your use of effective conflict resolution skills.

Leadership, Organization, and Program Management Competency

What programs did you develop programs that improved maternal, newborn and reproductive global health?

Leadership, Organization, and Program Management Skills

1. Describe the pre-departure training and post-return debriefing provided by the organization, if any, including personal health, travel safety, cultural awareness, expected ethical challenges.
2. What was your background in leadership, organization, and program management prior to this experience? Examples - designed and developed programs, implemented and managed programs, identified community needs with clear objectives, set priorities, allocated resources (both human and financial), and monitored and evaluated programs with a focus on improved and sustainable outcomes, data management, and managed human resources.
3. Describe examples of how your knowledge and background in this area impacted your work.

Teaching/Learning Competency

What was your prior expertise in teaching, learning, and evaluation in low resources settings? And after the experience?

Teaching/Learning Skills

1. What is your expertise in teaching, learning, and evaluation? And in what types of settings and at what literacy levels?
2. Did you have prior experience in Pre-Service and In-Service education? With simulation? In monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of programs and students?
3. Describe your experience(s) gained in Pre-Service and In-Service education? With simulation? In monitoring, evaluation, and assessment of programs and students?

Research /Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Competency

What internationally accepted research and quality improvement methodologic approaches did you utilize in this experience? What ethical knowledge did you apply to improve maternal, newborn and reproductive global health?

Research /Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Skills

1. Describe your familiarity with common data sources, both global and local. What sources did you use in the experience? Describe examples of your use of global evidence to appropriately support development in the country/area.
2. What public health research skills did you apply in this experience? Did you incorporate qualitative, quantitative, and operations research or translate research to policy and programs? Did you design and apply reliable, valid, and ethically sound research? Did you identify innovative solutions for global health problems?
3. How did you apply the fundamental principles of international standards for the protection of human subjects in all settings?

Health System Strengthening Competency

Describe co-developed solutions to health systems challenges using local health systems knowledge and leadership.

Health System Strengthening Skills

1. What previous experience did you have in solving health systems challenges at a local level? Describe your previous experience in health policy, leadership development, workforce planning and development, professional regulation (accreditation, licensure, scope of practice, CPD) and professional association capacity development, and national and local supply chain function.
2. In this experience, how did you focus on improving systems while recognizing the role of individuals?
3. Describe your work in this current experience to strengthen a health system.
4. Share what barriers were overcome by the community that resulted in improved maternal, newborn and reproductive health through use of available human, organizational, institutional, and legal resources.