This book considers the broad range of support given to mothers including social, psychological and clinical, and brings together the latest research findings, which examine the nature of care that is provided and consider what constitutes effective and efficient support.

This aspect of care is considered a crucial part of the increasing and expanding role of the midwife. The ability of midwives to provide ongoing support throughout childbirth is one of the features of midwifery care which distinguishes it from other care providers. This is a feature which is common to the resurgence of midwifery throughout the world; because it looks at the provision of this service and how different models have been set up internationally to fulfill this important function this text will have international appeal.