

IQNM: Fact sheet for criterion 8

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Who should read this fact sheet

This is important information for internationally qualified nurses and midwives who have applied, or intend applying, for registration in Australia and wish to know more about the requirements for criterion 8.

To be granted registration as a nurse or a midwife in Australia, your qualification must be assessed as 'substantially equivalent' to an Australian qualification. To decide this, your application will be assessed against the eight qualification criteria specified on the [Internationally qualified nurses and midwives](#) page on the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) website. The criteria are:

- Qualification criteria: internationally qualified registered nurses
- Qualification criteria: for internationally qualified midwives, or
- Qualification criteria: internationally qualified enrolled nurses.

This fact sheet contains specific information about criterion 8.

Criterion 8 requires that:

The education institution that provided the program of study, and confirmed your qualification, has certified that you have successfully completed an assessment in medication management including:

- *administration of medicines (including drug calculations),*
- *pharmacokinetics (the study of the bodily absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of drugs) and*
- *pharmacodynamics (the study of the biochemical and physiological effects of drugs and the mechanisms of their action in the body).*

As part of the certification, the education institution must provide information that clearly shows the medication management content you completed as part of the program of study.

What you need to know about criterion 8

The NMBA requires documentary evidence of study and assessment in pharmacology at the appropriate level and depth for the registration category you are applying for (registered nurse, enrolled nurse or midwife). This must include the following areas of study:

- pharmacokinetics
- pharmacodynamics

Definitions

Pharmacokinetics is a study of how the body deals with medicines, including absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion.

Pharmacodynamics is the study of the effects of medicines on the body.

The term '*medicine*' includes prescription, non-prescription and complementary therapies.

Meeting the requirements of criterion 8

You must provide evidence that you have successfully completed units of study and been assessed as competent in the administration of medications, including calculations, using all routes of medicines administration (oral, topical, *per rectum*, *per vaginam*, subcutaneous, intramuscular, and intravenous, as well as epidural for midwives).

Completing pharmacology unit/s of study as part of a nursing or midwifery program of study may not be sufficient evidence alone.

The type of evidence you need to provide includes:

- outline/s of pharmacology unit/s of study that describe the content and assessment of:
 - pharmacokinetics
 - pharmacodynamics
 - administration of medications (including calculations)
- successful completion of pharmacology unit/s of study in the following specific areas:
 - pharmacokinetics
 - pharmacodynamics
 - administration of medications (including calculations).

For administration of medications, the documentary evidence you provide must describe both the content and assessments and show that you have satisfactorily completed both theory and applied clinical practice in the administration of medications, including calculations, using all routes of medicines administration to patients.

More information

- Australian Government Department of Health [National Medicines Policy](#)