

Fact sheet

Updated July 2023

Enrolled nurses and medicines administration

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) undertakes functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The NMBA does this by developing registration standards, professional codes, guidelines and standards for practice which together establish the requirements of the professional practice framework for the professional and safe practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

Enrolled nurses (ENs) are able to administer medicines if they have completed medication administration education at some stage in their career. An EN is able to administer medicines unless they have a notation on their registration which advises that they have not completed medicines administration education.

The following questions answer common queries about ENs and medicines administration.

Can all ENs administer medicines?

ENs who **cannot** administer medicines **have the notation ‘Does not hold a Board-approved qualification in administration of medicines’** on their registration, which is available on the national [register of practitioners](#) (the public register).

ENs with the **notation ‘May only practice in the area of mothercraft nursing’** on their registration are also **unable** to administer medicines. Additionally, they cannot enrol in any EN medicines administration education

ENs who **can** administer medicines **do not have a notation** on their registration. This means they have successfully completed EN medicines administration education. This education may have been completed before or after the introduction of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) in 2010. ENs may have successfully completed medicines administration education other than the unit listed in this fact sheet. These ENs can administer medicines if they **do not have a notation on their registration**.

Since 2010, there has been no such title as an ‘endorsed enrolled nurse’ and this title must not be used. Most ENs **do not have a notation** as they have successfully completed EN medicines administration education within their pre-registration program and have the competence and confidence to administer medicines safely, regardless of when the initial education occurred.

What does an EN need to do to remove the notation ‘Does not hold a Board-approved qualification in administration of medicines’?

In order to have the notation removed, an EN must have successfully completed medicines administration education at some stage in their career.

ENs who have not completed any EN medicines administration education wishing to remove the notation, must complete the following unit of study:

- **Administer and Monitor Medicines and Intravenous Therapy – HLTENN040** (previous course code HLTENN007).

This unit of study is provided within an NMBA-approved Diploma of Nursing. Education providers who offer an NMBA-approved Diploma of Nursing program are published under the [Approved programs of study](#) section on the NMBA website. ENs should contact the education provider regarding any questions relating to eligibility for recognition of prior learning.

If you have successfully completed the current or previous medicines administration education and wish to have the notation removed you need to complete an [Application for removal of notation form APRN-40](#).

Can all ENs administer intravenous (IV) medicines?

No.

ENs **with** a notation cannot administer medicines, including intravenous medicines.

ENs **without** a notation can only administer intravenous (IV) medicines if they have completed intravenous medicines administration education.

An EN who **does not have a notation** on their registration **and has not** completed education in IV medicines administration, can expand their scope of practice to include intravenous medicines administration by undertaking further relevant education. ENs should use the NMBA's [Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery](#) to ensure that they are competent and confident in their proposed expanded scope of practice.

Employers must ensure that they are satisfied that employees are educated, competent and confident for any nursing activity they undertake. Information regarding the completion of IV medicines education is not published on the National Register.

What are the legislation requirements I should be aware of?

Employers and ENs should ensure that the EN is familiar with the state and territory drugs and poisons legislation, and relevant health department and health service policy requirements as well as relevant workplace policies, procedures and protocols.

For more information

- [Enrolled nurse standards for practice](#)
- [Fact sheet: Enrolled nurse standards for practice](#)
- [Policy: Mothercraft nurses](#)
- [Application form for removal of notation – APRN-40](#)
- [Application form for addition of notation – ANMV-40](#)
- [Decision-making framework for nursing and midwifery](#)
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (in Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)

Document history

Approved by: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

Date commenced: March 2015

Next review due: May 2027

Policy history: Is this a new policy? **N**
Does this policy amend or update an existing policy? **Y**
If so which version **v3.0**
Does this policy replace another policy with a different title? **N**

Approval date	Version	Reason for change
July 2023	v3.1	Update on course code and requirements HLTAAP003 and HLTENN007 removed
May 2022	v3.0	New document template Additional clarity provided regarding mothercraft nurses and notations Update to course codes Change to wording throughout document from 'medication administration' to 'medicines administration'
February 2020	v2.1	Update to title of Decision-making framework document
October 2016	v2.0	Full review
January 2015	v1.0	n/a