

## Fact sheet

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Updated May 2022

### 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 ENs administer medicines?

Yes.

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).

ENs who **cannot** administer medicines **have the notation ‘Does not hold 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.

It is expected that all ENs who do not have a notation have successfully completed EN medicines administration education 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 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 previously completed medicines administration education

ENs wishing to remove the notation must complete the unit of study **Administer and Monitor Medicines and Intravenous Therapy – HLTENN040** (previous course code HLTENN007) which is provided within an NMBA-approved Diploma of Nursing.

Education providers who offer an NMBA-approved Diploma of Nursing 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.

### ENs who have previously completed medicines administration education

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

### Previous medicines administration education

Prior to the release of the current Diploma of Nursing ([HLT54121](#)) in April 2021, removal of the notation required the successful completion of **two** units (if delivered within an NMBA-approved Diploma of Nursing) as follows:

Name of Unit	Unit Code	Previously identified as
Analyse and respond to client health information <b>together with</b>	<a href="#">HLTAAP003</a>	Analyse health information HLTAP501A or HLTAP501B or HLTAP501C
Administer and monitor medicines and intravenous therapy	<a href="#">HLTENN007</a>	Administer and monitor medications in the work environment HLTEN507A and HLTEN507B HLTEN507C

Note: Prior to the commencement of the National Scheme, ENs may have successfully completed medicines administration education other than the units listed above. These ENs can administer medicines if they **do not have a notation on their registration**.

### 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.

### 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](http://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 **v2.0**  
Does this policy replace another policy with a different title? **Y**  
**Enrolled nurses and medication administration**

Approval date	Version	Reason for change
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