

Fact sheet

Updated February 2020

Enrolled nurses and medication 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 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 medication education.

The following questions answer common queries about ENs and medication 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 medication 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 a condition on their registration limiting their practice to mothercraft nursing only are also unable to administer medicines.

It is expected that all ENs who do not have a notation have successfully completed EN medication administration education and have the competence and confidence to administer medications 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 medication administration education at some stage in their career.

ENs who have not previously completed medication administration education

ENs wishing to remove the notation must complete the unit of study *Administer and Monitor Medicines and Intravenous Therapy 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 medication administration education

If you have successfully completed the current or previous medication 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 medication administration education

Prior to the release of the current Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) in December 2015, 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 health information together with	HLTAP501C	HLTAP501A or HLTAP501B
Administer and monitor medications in the work environment	HLTEN507C	HLTEN507A and HLTEN507B

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

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 medication administration education.

An EN who does not have a notation on their registration and, has **not** completed education in IV medication administration, can expand their scope of practice to include intravenous medication 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](#)
- [Application form for removal of notation by enrolled nurse, nurse practitioner or midwife - APRN-40](#)

- [Application form for addition of notation as an enrolled nurse or nurse practitioner- 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 control

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