

Communiqué

Meeting of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia 15 November 2012 in the AHPRA National office, Melbourne Victoria

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the National Board or NMBA) is the national regulator for the nursing and midwifery professions in Australia. It is established under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The National Board meets monthly and considers a range of matters, the most important of which are published in this Communiqué.

[Guidelines and prescribing formulary for endorsed eligible midwives for preliminary consultation](#)

The National Board has approved for preliminary consultation the revised *Guidelines and prescribing formulary for endorsed eligible midwives*.

Preliminary consultation to targeted key stakeholders provides the opportunity to road test the proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns prior the document's release for an extended period of public consultation.

Under Section 94 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), the National Board has the power to endorse the registration of suitably qualified eligible midwives to prescribe or supply Board-approved medicines for the management of women and their infants in various stages of pregnancy and birth.

A scheduled medicines' endorsement identifies those midwives who are considered by the National Board to be qualified to:

- obtain, possess, administer, prescribe or supply specified medicines to the extent authorised under the relevant legislation that applies in the state or territory in which they practise
- use those medicines appropriately for the management of women and infants during the pregnancy, birth and post natal periods, and
- apply to Medicare Australia for a Pharmaceutical Benefits Schedule (PBS) prescriber number.

Under Section 94 of the National Law, the National Board is also required to specify the scheduled medicines or class of scheduled medicines to which the endorsement relates.

The proposed National Board's *Guidelines and prescribing formulary for endorsed eligible midwives* has been refined to take into account stakeholder feedback and amendments to drugs and poisons legislation in the jurisdictions.

[Administration of scheduled medicines for preliminary consultation](#)

The National Board has approved for preliminary consultation a revised NMBA registration standard for administration of scheduled medicines.

The revised NMBA Registration standard has a new title: *endorsement of registered nurses and/or registered midwives to supply and administer scheduled medicines under protocol*, and the National Board is seeking early feedback from a small group of key stakeholders.

The revised standard sets out qualifications and other requirements that a Registered Nurse and/or Midwife must meet in order to acquire endorsement to obtain, possess, supply, and administer scheduled medicines under protocol. This endorsement is granted under section 94 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The proposed registration standard has been refined to reflect the feedback received and will soon be disseminated for preliminary consultation with a targeted stakeholder group before going to public consultation early next year. The aim of the preliminary consultation is to road test the proposed content to help identify any operational impacts, issues or concerns prior to the document's release for public consultation.

[Advertising guidelines review for preliminary consultation](#)

The National Board is going into a preliminary consultation on the revised *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services* as part of a joint consultation by all 14 National Boards and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Existing guidelines, jointly developed by all National Boards, require review at least every three years.

While recognising the value of providing information through advertising to the public about registered nurses and midwives and the services they provide, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia requires that such advertisement is reliable, useful and assists the public to make informed choices about health care.

False or misleading advertising can create unrealistic expectations about the benefits, likelihood of success and safety of regulated health services, with possible adverse consequences.

Current *Guidelines for advertising of regulated health services for nursing and midwifery* are available under [Professional Practice Guidelines](#) on the National Board website.

[Social media policy and Guidelines for mandatory notifications for preliminary consultation](#)

Together with other National Boards, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia is progressing reviews of registration standards, codes and guidelines that took effect in July 2010 when the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) began.

These registration standards, codes and guidelines are due for evaluation at least every three years.

As part of this review, the National Board will go into preliminary consultation on:

- a proposed social media policy – providing guidance on appropriate use of social media and online behaviour, and
- revised draft *Guidelines for mandatory notifications* – providing direction to nurses and midwives, employers of nurses and midwives and education providers about the requirements for mandatory notifications to prevent the public from being placed at risk of harm.

The revised draft *Guidelines for mandatory notifications* recognise that practitioners are also under an ethical obligation to notify concerns about a practitioner, in accordance with the broad ethical framework set out in respective health professions' code of conduct. For the nursing and midwifery professions, the National Board has approved two codes; the [Code for professional conduct for nurses](#) and the [Code for professional conduct for midwives](#).

The preliminary consultations will be part of joint consultations coordinated across the National Boards in a staged approach that allows smoother mechanism for stakeholder feedback.

Upcoming communiqués and the National Board website will include details of consultations as they move into public consultation.

[New online service to search National Board-approved programs of study](#)

The National Board, in partnership with AHPRA, has launched a new online service for approved programs of study leading to registration and endorsement.

This searchable list of approved programs of study for [nursing](#) and [midwifery](#) replaces previously published lists.

The new online service culminates a project on consistent management of approved programs of study across all National Boards.

Nurses, midwives, students of nursing, education providers and the general public can now conduct an online search of approved programs of study using the [National Board website](#).

It is important to note that the National Board is not involved in the delivery of Board-approved programs of study, setting the student fee for a program of study or deciding when and where programs of study are offered.

Further information on course content, such as structure and subject outlines, can be sourced directly from the relevant education provider.

Accredited programs of study leading to registration and endorsement

The National Board approved for five years the following programs of study as providing a qualification for the purposes of registration or endorsement:

- University of the Sunshine Coast Bachelor of Nursing Science/Bachelor of Midwifery (Sippy Downs)
- The University of Queensland Bachelor of Nursing (Ipswich)
- University of Western Sydney Bachelor of Nursing (Campbelltown, Hawkesbury and Parramatta)
- University of Western Sydney Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced) (Campbelltown, Hawkesbury and Parramatta)
- Institute of Health and Nursing Australia Initial Registration for Overseas Registered Nurses (Melbourne and Perth)
- University of South Australia, Bachelor of Midwifery (City East Adelaide)
- Flinders University Bachelor of Nursing (Bedford Park and Renmark).

The National Board approved the following amendments to the Approved Program of Study List:

- Bachelor of Nursing (Practice Leadership) (addition of campuses: Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Ballarat)
- Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Paramedicine (addition of a campus in ACT)
- Bachelor of Nursing (Mental Health), Brisbane, North Sydney, Canberra and Ballarat.

The National Board approved following program prolongations:

- Wide Bay Institute of TAFE Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- Canberra Institute of Technology Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- Southbank Institute of Technology Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- CY O'Connor Institute Northam Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- Tropical North Institute of TAFE Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE Diploma of Nursing until 1 March 2013
- University of Southern Queensland Post Graduate Certificate in Advanced Practice (Rural and Remote) until 1 July 2013
- University of Queensland Bachelor of Nursing/Bachelor of Midwifery until 1 March 2013
- Edith Cowan University Bachelor of Science (Nursing)/Bachelor of Midwifery until 1 December 2014
- Edith Cowan University Master of Nursing Science (Nurse Practitioner) until 31 December 2012
- Flinders University Bachelor of Nursing (includes pathways for graduate entry and midwives) until 31 December 2014.

The National Board approved the following programs to be 'inactive' on the approved program of study list:

- Chisholm Institute, Victoria Certificate IV Nursing
- Box Hill Institute of TAFE Certificate IV Nursing.

For more detailed information please go the [approved program of study lists](#) of the National Board website.

Ms Anne Copeland

Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

30 November 2012

For more information

- Keep up to date with regular news and updates on the National Board website www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact Us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 7 3666 4911 (overseas callers)