

## Registration standard

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### Endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses prescribing in partnership

**Effective from:** <<<date>>

#### Summary

This registration standard describes how a registered nurse can qualify for this endorsement for scheduled medicines under section 94 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The scope of this endorsement for prescribing in partnership and what the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) expects of registered nurses to attain and retain this endorsement.

#### Does this standard apply to me?

This registration standard applies to registered nurses:

- applying<sup>1</sup> for endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses prescribing in partnership, and/or
- whose registration is endorsed for scheduled medicines prescribing in partnership.

#### Scope of endorsement

An endorsed registered nurse is qualified to **administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply and/or use** scheduled 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in partnership with an authorised prescriber for the purposes of practice of nursing and in accordance with relevant state and territory legislation.

#### The requirements of the endorsement

##### How can I qualify for endorsement?

You can qualify for endorsement through one of the following pathways:

Successful completion of:

- NMBA-approved units of study leading to endorsement as a registered nurse prescribing in partnership, or
- units of study that are equivalent to the NMBA-approved units of study leading to endorsement as a registered nurse prescribing in partnership.

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<sup>1</sup> Applications for endorsement may be made by those registered nurses who hold registration with the NMBA or are applying for registration at the same time as the endorsement. Registration must be granted before the endorsement application can be granted.

## What are the supervised practice requirements for the endorsement?

You also need to complete a period of supervised practice in accordance with the requirements set out in the *NMBA Guidelines for registered nurses applying for or with the endorsement for scheduled medicines - prescribing in partnership*.

## What are the other requirements for the endorsement?

1. Current general registration as a registered nurse in Australia with no conditions or undertakings relating to unsatisfactory professional performance or unprofessional conduct.
2. The equivalent of two years' full-time post initial registration clinical experience (3,800 hours), immediately prior to the date when the complete application seeking endorsement as a registered nurse prescribing in partnership is received by the NMBA.

## What must I do when I am endorsed?

Ongoing endorsement by the NMBA is conditional on the registered nurse prescribing in partnership with the partner prescriber and complying with the following requirements:

1. NMBA-approved *Continuing professional development registration standard, Recency of practice registration standard, Criminal history registration standard and Professional indemnity insurance arrangements registration standard*, and
2. An additional 10 hours of CPD annually related to prescribing of scheduled medicines, and
3. *NMBA Guidelines for registered nurses applying for or with endorsement for scheduled medicines – prescribing in partnership* and any other applicable codes and guidelines approved by the NMBA.

## At renewal of registration

When you apply to renew your registration, you need to declare that you comply with the ongoing requirements for endorsement as set out in this registration standard.

## During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time or if the NMBA receives a notification about you that is relevant to this endorsement.

## Evidence

You should retain relevant records as evidence that you meet the ongoing requirements of this registration standard in case you are audited.

## What happens if I don't meet this standard?

If you don't meet the requirements of this registration standard you will not be eligible for initial or ongoing endorsement as a registered nurse prescribing in partnership.

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you do not meet the ongoing requirements of this registration standard, including that:

- the NMBA can impose conditions on your registration and/or endorsement or refuse renewal of registration and/or endorsement (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law).

Registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct, for the nursing profession (section 41 of the National Law).

## Guidelines

The *NMBA Guidelines for registered nurses applying for or with the endorsement for scheduled medicines – prescribing in partnership* provide more information about what the NMBA expects of you when you are applying for endorsement and when you are endorsed.

You are expected to understand and apply these guidelines together with this registration standard.

## State or territory authority

The endorsement of your registration indicates that you are qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply and/or use the scheduled medicine 2, 3, 4 and 8 specified in the endorsement but does not authorise you do to so.

**The authorisation for you to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply and/or use the scheduled 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in a state or territory will be provided by or under legislation of the state or territory.**

You must administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply and/or use the scheduled 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines in the accordance with the state or territory legislation at all times.

## Wording to appear on the Register of nurses

Endorsed as qualified to administer, obtain, possess, prescribe, supply and/or use scheduled 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines for the purposes of prescribing in partnership within the scope of registered nurse practice.

## Authority

The Ministerial Council has decided that the NMBA may endorse registered nurses to the extent described in this registration standard.

This standard has been approved by the Ministerial Council under section 12 of the National Law on <<date>>.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide-ranging consultation.

## Definitions

**Approved units of study** means the educational units of study to develop a registered nurse's knowledge and skills in prescribing medicines that has been accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC) and approved by the NMBA under section 49(1) of the National Law for the purpose of enabling the registered nurse to seek endorsement, under section 94 of the National Law, to prescribe schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines, in accordance with relevant state and territory legislation.

**Authorised health practitioner** is a practitioner who is an authorised autonomous prescriber for example a medical practitioner or a nurse practitioner.

**Endorsed registered nurse** means the person is qualified to prescribe scheduled medicines in partnership with a partner prescriber.

**Ministerial Council** means the COAG Health Council.

**National Law** means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory.

**Prescribe** a medicine means to authorise the supply or administration of a medicine to a patient (for example, a nurse who writes a prescription for a patient to be dispensed by a pharmacist is exercising their authority to prescribe).

**Partner prescriber** is an authorised health practitioner who is an authorised autonomous prescriber (more than one partner prescriber may work in partnership with the endorsed registered nurse).

**Prescribing in partnership** means when a registered nurse with an endorsement for scheduled medicines undertakes prescribing within their level of competence and scope of practice in partnership with a partner prescriber. The registered nurse endorsed to prescribe in partnership has an authorisation to prescribe medicines that is determined by legislation, will meet the requirements of the NMBA related to the endorsement and policies of the jurisdiction, employer or health service. The registered nurse endorsed to prescribe in partnership is responsible and accountable for prescribing within their scope of practice and authorisation.

**Supply** a medicine means to provide a medicine to a patient for their later use or administration (for example, a nurse in a hospital in a rural and remote area who is authorised to supply a medicine to a patient to take home for self-administration is exercising their authority to supply).

**Administer** a medicine means to personally apply or introduce a medicine, or personally observe its application or introduction, to the patient's body.

The terms 'obtain' and 'possess' should be given their ordinary dictionary meaning.

**Scheduled medicine** means a substance included in a schedule to the current Poisons Standard within the meaning of the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989* (Cth).

**Unprofessional conduct** of a registered health practitioner, means professional conduct that is of a lesser standard than that which might reasonably be expected of the health practitioner by the public or the practitioner's professional peers, and includes:

- a. a contravention by the practitioner of the National Law, whether or not the practitioner has been prosecuted for, or convicted of, an offence in relation to the contravention
- b. a contravention by the practitioner of (i) a condition to which the practitioner's registration was subject; or (ii) an undertaking given by the practitioner to the National Board that registers the practitioner
- c. the conviction of the practitioner for an offence under another Act, the nature of which may affect the practitioner's suitability to continue to practise the profession
- d. providing a person with health services of a kind that are excessive, unnecessary or otherwise not reasonably required for the person's well-being
- e. influencing or attempting to influence, the conduct of another registered health practitioner in a way that may compromise patient care
- f. accepting a benefit as inducement, consideration, or reward, for referring another person to a health service provider or recommending another person use or consult with a health service provider
- g. offering or giving a person a benefit, consideration or reward in return for the person referring another person to the practitioner or recommending to another person that the person use a health service provided by the practitioner, and
- h. referring a person to, or recommending that a person use or consult another health service provider, health service, or health product, if the practitioner has a pecuniary interest in giving that referral or recommendation, unless the practitioner discloses the nature of that interest to the person before or at the time of giving the referral or recommendation.

**Unsatisfactory professional performance** of a registered health practitioner, means the knowledge, skill or judgment possessed, or care exercised by, the practitioner in the practice of the health profession in which the practitioner is registered is below the standard reasonably expected of a health practitioner of an equivalent level of training or experience.

Note: The NMBA and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) operate in a co-regulatory model in some jurisdictions and may not be the only entities involved in undertaking assessment related to a notification. In co-regulatory definitions these terms may be described differently but have the same intent.

### Review

This standard for endorsement of registration will be reviewed from time to time as necessary. The NMBA will review this standard at least every <<five>> years.

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