

Fact sheet

June 2016

Endorsement as a nurse practitioner

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) carries out 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.

The [Registration standard: Endorsement as a nurse practitioner](#) describes the necessary qualifications and experience that a registered nurse must demonstrate when applying for and maintaining endorsement as a nurse practitioner. Nurse practitioners are expected to practise within the relevant NMBA-approved standards for practice and decision-making frameworks.

The following questions answer common queries about the change from the *Endorsement as a nurse practitioner registration standard* (2011) to the *Registration standard: Endorsement as a nurse practitioner* (2015).

Who does this apply to?

This fact sheet applies to nurses and nurse practitioners who hold registration as a nurse in Australia, who are applying for, or maintaining, endorsement as a nurse practitioner.

Has the registration standard for endorsement as a nurse practitioner changed?

Yes. The NMBA has introduced a revised *Registration standard: Endorsement as a nurse practitioner* (2015).

This standard replaces the *Endorsement as a nurse practitioner registration standard* (2011).

When does the standard take effect?

The standard takes effect on 1 June 2016.

Why is there a need for a revised registration standard for endorsement as a nurse practitioner?

The NMBA has made minor revisions to the existing registration standard to reflect the current *Nurse practitioner standards for practice* (2014). Feedback from the NMBA consultation showed that the current standard is working well but minor amendments are needed to improve its clarity.

What key changes do I need to be aware of?

If you are a nurse practitioner the following areas may require a change in your practice and/or evidence that you need to provide to demonstrate that the requirement has been met, including:

- **Use of the term ‘advanced nursing practice’:** the reference to ‘advanced practice nursing’ in criteria 2. under ‘What must I do?’ has been amended to ‘advanced nursing practice’. This is to recognise that ‘advanced practice nursing’ and ‘advanced nursing practice’ are different levels of nursing practice.
- **Definition of ‘nurse practitioner’:** the definition from the *Nurse practitioner standards for practice* (2014) has replaced the existing definition in the standard.
- **Use of ‘qualification’:** the definition has been amended and expanded to distinguish between nursing-related masters at postgraduate level and other non-nursing masters programs.
- **Clinical experience:** ‘clinical’ has been added to the criterion: ‘5,000 hours advanced clinical nursing practice’ to emphasise the clinical aspect of the requirements for endorsement.
- **Ongoing requirements for endorsement:** these have been made clearer to maintain compliance with the current NMBA-approved standards and guidelines. In particular the NMBA’s [Registration standard: Recency of practice](#) clarifies that nurse practitioners are required to demonstrate recency of practice at the nurse practitioner (advanced practice nursing) level to retain the endorsement.

What do I need to do when the revised standard takes effect?

You need to familiarise yourself with the revised standard before 1 June 2016.

During the transition period (1 February to 31 May 2016), we encourage you to reflect on your practice using the revised standard, and to complete continuing professional development (CPD) activities that will help you address self-identified areas of learning.

I have submitted an application for endorsement as a nurse practitioner, which is currently being assessed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). Will the revised standard affect my application?

If you applied before 1 June 2016, assessment of your application will not be affected by the revised standard.

I am enrolled in a NMBA-approved program of study leading to endorsement as a nurse practitioner. Will the revised standard affect my application for endorsement?

If you are currently enrolled in a NMBA-approved program of study leading to endorsement as a nurse practitioner and you are due to graduate after 1 June 2016, your program of study is still recognised as a NMBA-approved program. When you have successfully completed the NMBA-approved program the revised standard will apply to your application for endorsement.

For more information

- [Registration standard: Endorsement as nurse practitioner](#)
- [Guidelines for nurses applying for endorsement as a nurse practitioner](#)
- [Nurse practitioner standards for practice](#)
- Visit www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au under *Contact us* to lodge an online enquiry form
- For registration enquiries: 1300 419 495 (within Australia) +61 3 9275 9009 (overseas callers)