



Registration standard: Endorsement as a nurse practitioner

18 October 2010

Endorsement as a nurse practitioner

Summary

An applicant wishing to be endorsed as a nurse practitioner must be able to demonstrate:

- general registration as a nurse
- the requisite advanced nursing practice and
- the requisite educational qualifications or equivalent.

Scope of application

This standard applies to all applicants seeking endorsement as nurse practitioners.

Requirements

To be eligible for endorsement as a nurse practitioner, the nurse must be able to demonstrate all the following:

- a) current general registration as a registered nurse with no restrictions on practice
- b) advanced nursing practice that constitutes the equivalent of three (3) years' full-time experience within the past five (5) years
- c) compliance with the competency standards for nurse practitioners approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (the Board) (<http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-and-Guidelines.aspx>)
- d) completion of the requisite qualification or equivalent as determined by the Board and
- e) an extra ten (10) hours of participation in specified continuing professional development (CPD) per year in addition to the 20 hours of participation required each year for general registration (that is, 30 hours in total of CPD each year). This CPD must be relevant to a nurse practitioner's scope of practice and must include prescribing and administration of medicines, judicious use of diagnostic investigations and consultation and referral where a nurse practitioner has authority to prescribe and order diagnostic interventions.

Definitions

Advanced practice nursing defines a level of nursing practice that utilises extended and expanded skills, experience and knowledge in assessment, planning, implementation, diagnosis and evaluation of the care required. Nurses practising at this level are educationally prepared at postgraduate level and may work in a specialist or generalist capacity. However, the basis of advanced practice is the high degree of knowledge, skill and experience applied in the nurse-patient/client relationship to achieve optimal outcomes through critical analysis, problem solving and accurate decision-making (ANMC 2006).

Competency standards are those standards outlined in the *National Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner* (ANMC 2006).

General registration as a nurse means a person whose name is entered on the Register of Nurses in the 'Division of registered nurses in the general category'.

Nurse practitioner means a nurse whose registration has been endorsed by the Board as a nurse practitioner under section 95 of the National Law. A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who is educated and authorised to function autonomously and collaboratively in an advance and extended clinical role. The nurse practitioner role includes assessment and management using nursing knowledge and skills. The role may include, but is not limited to, the direct referral of patients to other health care professionals, prescribing medications and ordering diagnostic investigations. The role is grounded in the nursing profession's values, knowledge, theories and practice, and provides innovative and flexible health care delivery that complements other health care providers (*National Competency Standards for the Nursing Practitioner*, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council, Canberra 2006).

Qualification means a Master's degree approved by the Board under section 49 of the National Law and included in the approved list of programs of study for endorsement as nurse practitioners. Nurse practitioners who have not completed an approved program but who have a relevant Master's degree and have undertaken supplementary education to meet the competency standards for nurse practitioners will need to make a case for equivalence against *National Competency Standards for the Nurse Practitioner*. These individual cases will be assessed against the competency standards by the State and Territory Boards.

Further information will be included in detailed guidelines and published on the Board's website.

References

ANMC (Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council) (2006): *Competency Standards for the Nursing Practitioner*.
Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (2010): *Guidelines for Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner*

Review

This standard will commence on xxx 2010. The Board will review this standard at least every three years of operation.