



THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSION

Australian Medical Association (NSW) Limited

National Registration – Practice Nurses

Australia's new National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is due to commence on 1 July 2010. From this date, a new National Law (the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009) will come into effect and 10 health professions will be regulated by nationally consistent legislation. For nurses, The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia is preparing for the commencement of the scheme.

As under current State legislation, the following nursing and midwifery titles will be protected under the new national system:

- Registered Nurse;
- Nurse Practitioner;
- Enrolled Nurse;
- Midwife;
- Midwife Practitioner.

Practitioners of the Nursing and Midwifery professions across Australia will have to meet the same requirements to be registered and their registration will be recognised in all States and Territories. The Board was established under the Health Practitioner Regulation (administrative arrangements) Act, 2009. The Board will operate with its full range of functions under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the national law) where adopted in a jurisdiction.

Currently, each state or territory's nursing and midwifery regulatory authority (NMRA) establishes what standards apply in their jurisdiction. This is commonly a combination of selected ANMC national standards together with locally developed standards. In the new national scheme, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) will establish the applicable standards. It is each nurse and midwife's responsibility to know what professional standards apply to their practice at a given point in time.

Your registered nurses will shortly receive a letter to advise:

- their new registration type in the national scheme and
- the conditions that will apply to your registration and appear on the public register.

For nurses who hold a current registration or enrolment on 30 June 2010 will automatically be registered under the National scheme on 1 July 2010. If their registration is due on 30 June 2010, ensure that they pay the annual renewal fee well in advance of the renewal date, as the NMB database will not reflect any payment until 24 hours after the payment is received.



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Nurses and midwives who do not hold current registration on the commencement date of 1 July 2010 will need to apply to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia when they wish to restore to the Register, and meet the requirements of the National Board.

Professional Indemnity

Registered nurses and midwives must not practice their professions unless they are covered in the conduct of their practice by appropriate professional indemnity insurance (PII) arrangements.

Nurses and midwives, unless exempted under the National Law, will require professional indemnity insurance to cover the full scope of their practice, whether employed or self-employed. Nurses and midwives in different types of practice will require different levels of professional indemnity cover according to their individual scope of practice and risk.

For practices that are unsure of the requirements surrounding your employed nurses, AMA (NSW) advises to contact your MDO to seek clarification of your current policy arrangements.

CPD

All nurses and midwives who are engaged in any form of nursing or midwifery practice will be required to complete continuing professional development (CPD) that is relevant to their context of practice. This includes undertaking learning activities that will maintain and enhance knowledge and skills pertaining to their area of practice.

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au