



THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

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COMMON SERVICES AGENCY
NHS

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St. Andrew's House

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Edinburgh EH1 3DG

REFERRED TO

ACTION
TAKEN

23 March 1995

National Health Service in Scotland
Management Executive

Dear Colleague

**NURSES, MIDWIVES AND HEALTH VISITORS -
STANDARDS FOR EDUCATION AND PRACTICE
FOLLOWING REGISTRATION**

Summary

1. In April 1994 Ministers accepted proposals put forward by the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (UKCC) concerning post registration education and practice (PREP).

2. Subject to the approval of secondary legislation, from April 1995 new standards will apply to registered nurses, midwives and health visitors who wish to maintain their registration, and to those who seek post registration education leading to a specialist qualification eligible for recording on the register of qualified nurses, midwives and health visitors maintained by UKCC.

Action

3. In summary, in order to maintain their registration, all registered nurses, midwives and health visitors will be required to:

- undertake a minimum of 5 days of study (or the equivalent) during each 3 year registration period;
- complete a "Notification of Practice" form, giving details of their qualifications and area of practice, when renewing their registration (midwives will also continue to complete a "Notification of Intention to Practise" form annually);
- maintain a record of their education, training and professional development in a "personal professional profile";

and, for those practitioners re-entering practice after a break of 5 years or more;

- undertake a statutory "Return to Practise" programme;

Addressees

For action:
General Managers,
Health Boards

Chief Executives, NHS
Trusts

For information:
Directors of Nurse
Education/Principals
of CNMs

Chief Area Nursing
Officers

Directors of Nursing
Services, DMUs and NHS
Trusts

General Manager, CSA

General Manager, State
Hospital

General Manager,
Health Education Board
for Scotland

Unit General Managers
NBS
UKCC

Enquiries to:

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Directorate of Nursing
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Tel: 0131 244 2521
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4. The requirements will apply to registered nurses, midwives and health visitors who renew their registration on or after 1 April 1995, on the renewal of this registration. However, the 3 year re-registration cycle and the fact that re-registration applies to approximately one-third of practitioners each year, means that it will be April 2001 before all practitioners are required to meet the new standards.

5. The obligation to meet the new standards rests with each registered nurse, midwife and health visitor but NHS employers, including GPs, have a responsibility to ensure that their staff receive appropriate education and training to maintain professional standards and high quality patient care. Boards should bring the details of this letter to the attention of GPs.

6. New standards for post registration education leading to a specialist qualification recordable with the UKCC are set out in standards for entry to, and learning outcomes for, programmes which prepare practitioners to work as specialists who are able to exercise higher levels of judgement and discretion in clinical care. Until the new programmes are fully operational, transitional arrangements will ensure that proper recognition is given to the qualifications and experience of existing practitioners who are working in a specialist capacity. Full details of specialist programmes and transitional arrangements will be provided by the UKCC.

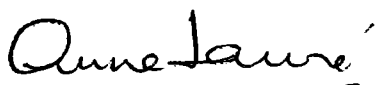
7. The UKCC will shortly be sending a set of factsheets about PREP to all registered nurses, midwives and health visitors. Further details of the new standards for education and practice following registration, are available from Mrs M Wallace, Assistant Registrar, United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, 23 Portland Place, London W1N 3AF. From 1 April 1995 a telephone helpline will be available at the UKCC between 1000-1600 hrs Monday to Friday on 0171 927 7549.

8. In the context of continuing education and professional development strategies for all staff, the new standards provide a significant opportunity to link these professional requirements to systems of staff development and performance review. However, it will be for practitioners to determine whether their "personal professional profile" is used as part of this process.

9. Employers will need to determine the number of practitioners needed to work in a capacity which requires a specialist qualification and commission education to meet these needs.

10. Programmes of post registration education leading to a specialist qualification recordable with the UKCC, require to be approved by the National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting for Scotland (NBS). Enquiries should be addressed, in the first instance, to the NBS, 22 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1NT, Tel: 0131 226 7371.

Yours sincerely



MISS ANNE JARVIE
Director of Nursing