

# **Advanced Practice Review: Key lines of enquiry:**

**Outline and purpose of  
the key lines of enquiry  
papers**

**March 2024**

## Background and context

- 1 The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is currently undertaking a review to establish whether additional regulation of advanced nursing and midwifery practice is required.
- 2 Given the planned increase to the Advanced Practice (AP) workforce our 2020-2025 strategy committed us to undertaking a comprehensive review of advanced practice nursing, including consideration of whether additional regulation is needed.
- 3 Our new post-registration standards that Council approved in 2022 describe these standards as a bridge to our next phase of work on AP.
- 4 Our 2022-2023 corporate plan included a discovery phase and took the decision to extend the scope of this review to include midwifery.
- 5 As part of this work, we commissioned [independent research](#). This examined the existing literature on AP regulation, international approaches to regulating AP and the AP landscape in the four UK countries. We also commissioned [independent engagement](#) with professionals currently working in AP roles to understand their views.
- 6 We have been clear about collaboration and co-production throughout this review, and we have undertaken extensive external engagement with the public, current professionals and key stakeholders. This includes engagement with our public voice forum and the establishment of an AP public advisory group, which brought together people who use health and care services. This has helped shape our review, understand how we can best support public protection and continue to ensure confidence and trust in professionals in AP roles. In turn this has enabled us to outline a range of potential regulatory options that have been discussed and with a range of stakeholders.
- 7 Further information on the AP review, progress and updates can be found on our [website](#).
- 8 We will present the proposed regulatory options to our Council at their meeting on 27 March 2024, where they will take a decision on next steps, including whether additional regulation of nurses and midwives working in AP roles is required. Once the decision has been made by our Council we will develop and confirm plans for Phase Two.

## Purpose of each KLOE paper

- 9 In order to better understand the risks identified in the Nuffield Trust report (2023) the Council agreed we should undertake a number of key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) to guide phase one of the AP review.

- 10 These KLOEs underpin the review and have enabled us to gather existing evidence, test assumptions, identify gaps and gain consensus through engagement with stakeholders. The KLOEs have enabled us to progress through Phase One in order to reach consensus.
- 11 Each KLOE paper provides the outputs of the KLOE review which has been gathered using a mixed methods approach, including desk-based evidence gathering, rapid literature reviews, stakeholder engagement and discussions with international professional regulators and professional bodies. The evidence in these papers reflects evidence gathered from August 2023 – February 2024. Then in turn these have undergone, internal and external scrutiny and challenge.
- 12 The KLOEs are iterative and have been ‘live’ documents throughout Phase One and as such they continue to be updated with new information as Phase One has progressed. These papers are therefore ‘Phase One – interim’ papers. The KLOEs have supported the development of a number of potential regulatory options which are detailed below. Each KLOE paper can be read individually but helpfully to support the sequencing of our activity should be read prior to the options appraisal paper and the independent analysis of engagement.

## Key lines of Enquiry for the Review

- 13 The KLOEs have enabled us to further understand the benefits of, and risks to people who receive care from professionals in AP roles and how regulation may mitigate these risks and supported the development and discussion of potential regulatory options. Further details about the options can be found in the [options appraisal paper](#).

The KLOEs guiding Phase One are:

KLOE 1 - Comparative analysis of current Advanced Practice (AP) frameworks across the four countries of the UK and potential for developing a unified UK wide AP framework.

KLOE 2 - Examine and compare AP models in other countries and identify elements for us to adapt to the UK context.

KLOE 3 - Scope of practice and level of practice considerations in the regulation of AP (regulating specialist versus generalist advanced practice).

KLOE 4 -Task shifting rationale (tasks formerly undertaken by other professionals now being done by nurses) and balancing with person centred care principles.

KLOE 5 - Supervision, assessment and continued professional development of AP professionals.

KLOE 6 - Comparative analysis of approach by other professional regulators in the regulation of AP. This includes the work we have undertaken through our joint professional regulatory group.

KLOE 7 - The economic cost/benefit analysis to support our findings and recommendations. We have commissioned independent economic analysts to undertake this work and we will publish their report shortly.

KLOE 8 - Review the risks and benefits associated with AP overall particularly from a public protection point of view and the specific risks and benefits of the different potential options of regulating AP. KLOE 8 is reported as our [options appraisal paper](#).

KLOE 9 - Consideration and analysis of the impact of regulation of AP in internationally trained nurses and midwives. We have commissioned the Florence Nightingale Foundation to explore KLOE 9. Their research will extend into phase 2 of the review and we will publish their rapid evidence check by mid-April 2024. This will highlight the work undertaken to date.

- 14 Table 1 below outlines the connections between individual KLOEs and the range of regulatory options we have identified in this paper. KLOE discussions have shaped and enhanced the overall development of all of the regulatory options.

**Table 1. Regulatory options mapped to KLOEs**

<b>Regulatory Option</b>	<b>KLOEs</b>
Status Quo	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.
Set of principles/Joint statement	1, 2, 3, 6, 8.
Credentialling	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8.
Revalidation	3, 4, 7, 8, 9.
Test of Competence	8, 7, 9.
Setting education standards	1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8.

## **Next steps**

- 14 Once the Council have a made their decision on our recommendations we intend to continue to utilise and build on the evidence within the KLOE papers. They will therefore remain 'live'.