

Nursing and Midwifery Council Circular

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Title: Additional requirements to include within the Indicative Content of Nurse Independent Prescribing education and training programmes

For Action by: Higher Education Institutes
Student Nurses
Nurse Preceptors

For Information to: Directors of Nursing

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Summary

- The NMC has the responsibility to set standards for education and training to ensure safe and effective prescribers.
- This Circular outlines additional requirements for the standards of educational preparation for Independent Nurse/Midwife prescribers. It recognises the fact that many registrants may work in the field of cosmetic surgery for which there are specific ethical and legal considerations.
- It does not replace any previous circular
- This circular should be read in conjunction with Standards of Proficiency for Nurse Midwife prescribers.

Additional requirements to include within the Indicative Content of Nurse Independent Prescribing education and training programmes.

The content of this circular is intended for those who:

- commission and deliver nurse independent prescribing programmes
- sponsor registrants to undertake these programmes
- Strategic Health Authority Non Medical Prescribing Leads
- Primary Care Trust Non Medical Prescribing Leads

The NMC 'Standards of Proficiency for Nurse Independent/Supplementary Prescribing' were published in May 2006. Standard 1 states:

'You must have at least three years' experience as a practising nurse, midwife or specialist community public health nurse and be deemed competent by your employer to undertake the programme. Of these three years, the year immediately preceding application to the programme must have been in the clinical field in which you intend to prescribe, e.g. neonates, mental health. Part-time workers must have practised for a sufficient period to be deemed competent by their employer.'

It is apparent that on successful completion of the nurse independent prescribing programme, some registrants are moving into the field of cosmetic procedures including the prescription and administration of prescribing in cosmetic procedures involving for example, administration of Botox ®. This area of practice is not regulated by the Healthcare Commission. The NMC therefore require that prescribing of botulinum toxin and related products - including the related ethical issues, documentation, legal aspects and the registrant's accountability, are covered within the indicative content of the programme.

This requirement will come into effect with the validation of all new programmes.

In addition the NMC are currently working with the other Regulatory Bodies and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health to consider the issue of prescribing for children by all prescribers. It is anticipated that additional guidance will be issued in the form of a circular by the spring of 2007.

Action Required

- HEI's are required to amend existing Learning Outcomes for the Nurse/Midwife Independent Prescribing programme of preparation.

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This circular has been issued by:

Sarah Thewlis

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