

## **Consultation on the introduction of guidance to cover individuals who apply to register qualifications awarded more than five years previously: Glossary of terms and explanations**

**Approved qualification** A qualification awarded in the United Kingdom which Council approves as meeting the standard of proficiency it requires for admission to a part of the register. Approved qualifications include pre-registration nursing and midwifery qualifications and Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN) qualifications, and as well as qualifications obtained by second level nurses wishing to convert their qualification to be able to register as a first level nurse.

Some EEA qualifications to which an EC directive applies, and other overseas qualifications which Council has decided are comparable to UK awarded approved qualifications are also classed as approved qualifications.

**Competence testing** May involve multiple choice testing, short answers and an objective simulated clinical examination (OSCE). Also referred to as aptitude testing.

**'Five year applicant'** An individual who applies for admission to the register on the basis of holding of an approved qualification which was awarded more than five years previously.

**'Five year rule'** States that an applicant can be admitted to the register if they satisfy the Registrar that they hold an approved qualification awarded within the previous five years, or if the approved qualification was awarded more than five years before applying, that they have undertaken the required additional, education, training or experience.

The five year rule applies to approved qualifications. It does not apply to recordable qualifications.

**Guidance** Should be followed. Failure to follow guidance may be taken account of, if a nurse or midwife's fitness to practice has been called into question.

**NMC register** The NMC register is a public record of all nurses and midwives who have met our registration requirements and are therefore entitled to practise in the UK. In order to remain on the register, nurses and midwives must follow the standards and guidance we set which helps to ensure they practise safely and effectively.

**Register** see NMC register.

**Rules** These are statutory, drafted by our solicitors and subject to approval by the Privy Council. They must be complied with.

**Standards** The NMC sets standards of education, training, conduct and performance for nurses and midwives. Standards must be complied with. We are required to

establish standards. Failure to comply may bring a nurse's or midwife's fitness to practice into question and endanger their ability to practise.

**The Code** *The code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives* is the professional code for all nurses and midwives. It sets out how they should conduct themselves in every area of their practice.

**The Order** The NMC is governed by the Nursing and Midwifery Order (the Order, Statutory instrument 2002/253), as amended from time to time. The order requires us to produce various items of supporting documentation such as rules, standards and guidance. The Order is supported in relation to registration by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (Education, Registration and Registration Appeals) Rules 2004.