

Your future nurse

What our new standards for
the future nurse mean for you



Our society is changing – and care is changing with it.

Nurses provide vital care and support throughout our lives. So it's important to know you'll always receive high quality care.

This is why we set 'Standards of proficiency for registered nurses'. These standards list the knowledge, skills and behaviours that every nurse must have, whether they're adult nurses, children's nurses, learning disabilities nurses or mental health nurses.

We've recently updated these standards to make sure that nurses give you the best possible care, now and in the future.

What the new standards mean for you

The standards are set out in seven sections. Here's what each one means for you:

1. Being an accountable professional

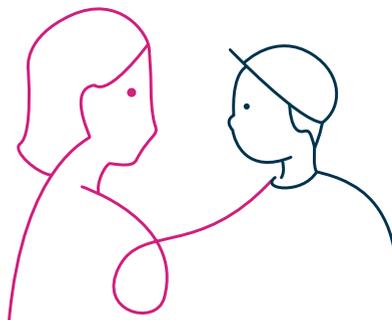
Nurses provide safe and compassionate care that's based on your unique needs. They communicate well with you and always take responsibility for their actions.

You can be sure they're always learning, improving and reflecting on their practice.

2. Promoting health and preventing ill health

Nurses give you the support you need to manage your own health, so you can have a good quality of life at every age.

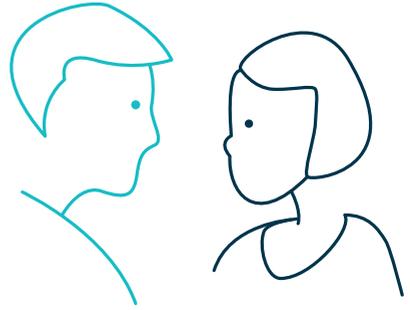
They get involved in tackling the big issues that affect public health, including the issues that matter most to you.



3. Assessing needs and planning care

Nurses assess your mental, physical, cognitive, behavioural, social and spiritual needs. They use this information when working with you to plan your care.

They make decisions with you, not for you.



4. Providing and evaluating care

Nurses support people of all ages in a range of care settings. They specialise in different areas but can support people with all common health conditions.

They provide care based on your needs and make best use of evidence. They then work with you, your family and carers to evaluate whether the goals you set together have been met.

5. Leading and managing nursing care and working in teams

Nurses are trained to be strong leaders and act as role models wherever they go. They delegate work safely and appropriately, and work well with colleagues in different roles.

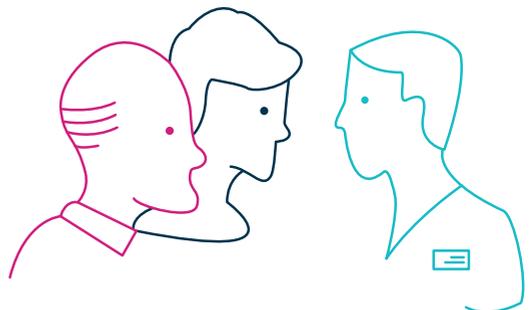
6. Improving safety and quality of care

Nurses help monitor and improve the quality of the care you receive. They assess risks to safety and take action to manage the risks, putting your best interests, needs and preferences first.

7. Coordinating care

Nurses take the lead in making sure that the care you receive throughout your life is well coordinated. Especially if you have multiple medical needs or are receiving care across a range of settings.

They are aware of local and national policies and this helps them to improve the way your care settings operate.



What about the specific skills nurses need?

There are two annexes in these standards that list the skills nurses must have, and the procedures they must be able to do when they join our register. One focuses on communication and relationship skills and the other on nursing procedures. The level of expertise a nurse needs in each skill depends on what area of nursing they will register in.

What other standards do we set?

We publish a professional Code for nurses, which sets out the standards of practice and behaviour they must keep to every day.

Underneath the Code, we set a range of other standards and guidance documents all designed to help keep you safe.

We also tell universities and their practice placement partners what we expect from them when they're delivering nursing and midwifery educating and training. By doing this, nurses will be supported to develop the skills they need to keep you safe in the future.



Find out more about the Standards of proficiency for registered nurses at:

www.nmc.org.uk/education

NMC Nursing &
Midwifery
Council