

**The Nursing and Midwifery Council  
(NMC) during the Covid-19  
transition; Information pack.**

24 July 2020

Introduction .....	3
The temporary register.....	4
Arrangements for overseas candidates .....	5
OSCE test centres reopened.....	5
Other updates .....	6
NMC's response to the report from the Society of Occupational Medicine .....	6
How our response to Covid-19 has affected diverse groups.....	6
Further Information .....	7
Frequently asked questions .....	7
Contact us.....	7

## Introduction

This pack provides the latest information about the work of the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) during the coronavirus pandemic, including our actions as we transition from the emergency towards ongoing management of Covid-19 in health and social care.

As the independent regulator of nurses and midwives across the UK, and nursing associates in England, we have played an active role in expanding and supporting the nursing and midwifery workforce during this challenging time. We made a series of [operational changes](#) in response to the pandemic, in order to prioritise our core regulatory functions and ensure we continue to regulate nurses, midwives and nursing associates effectively.

As we move from the emergency into recovery, and as health and social care transitions towards a new normal, the NMC is gradually introducing changes to support the nursing and midwifery workforce to provide the best and safest care to people. We are now resuming areas of our work that we had been required to pause during the emergency, in accordance with government guidelines. We will continue to work collaboratively to ensure that the people on our register have the knowledge and skills to deliver safe, kind and high quality care to people.

If you have any questions about the detail contained in this pack then please get in touch using the information provided under [contact us](#).

## The temporary register

As you will be aware, the Government introduced emergency legislation that enabled the NMC to create the Covid-19 temporary register. This means we have temporarily registered fit, proper and suitably experienced people, so that they can practise if they want to and feel able to do so during the Covid-19 emergency.

When we opened the temporary register on 27 March, 7,510 nursing and midwifery professionals appeared on it. There are now over 14,000 professionals on the temporary register.

The latest published breakdown of the temporary register (data as of 22 July 2020):

	<i>Country of address</i>					
	<b>England</b>	<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Wales</b>	<b>Not given</b>	<b>UK</b>
<b>Midwife</b>	651	14	74	27	-	766
<b>Nurse</b>	11,179	290	1,395	589	47	13,500
<b>Midwife; Nurse</b>	121	4	13	4	1	143
<b>Total</b>	11,951	308	1,482	620	48	14,409

The temporary register will remain open as long as the Secretary of State for Health declares Covid-19 to be an emergency. We continue to work collaboratively with the Department of Health and Social Care and the Devolved Administrations to make any decisions in relation to the temporary register, including the future transition out of the emergency situation. Further information on the temporary register can be found on our website [here](#).

## Arrangements for overseas candidates

### OSCE test centres reopen

As reported in the previous pack, our three objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) test centres re-opened on 20 July.

Over 2,400 tests have already been booked, including 1,950 overseas temporary registrants and there is capacity for all the overseas temporary registrants to take their test by October.

The test centre senior management teams across all three sites have assessed the physical risks associated with re-opening and, based on this risk assessment, developed a social distancing plan/Covid-19 management plan prior to re-opening.

In order to support both candidates and the test centres, and to ensure the process is as fair as possible, all overseas applicants can book their tests but priority appointments will be given to those currently on the temporary register. Once candidates have successfully passed their OSCE and completed the application process, they will join the permanent register. All conditions of practice related to anyone previously on the temporary register will no longer apply to them. We will work with applicants, test centres, employers and other stakeholders to support this process and to make moving from the temporary register to the full register as easy as possible.

We also recognise that many of the candidates for the OSCE are from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds (BAME) and that BAME people have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19. We know how important it is that people feel safe and supported when taking their OSCE test and when going to work which is why this has been a key consideration in all of our risk assessments.

We are establishing a short-life task force involving all of these groups together with the representative bodies to oversee the implementation of the reopening of the OSCE centres, resolve practical issues that arise and ensure capacity and demand is planned and supported in the months ahead. We will share the membership of the task force soon.

We also have a [dedicated webhub page for overseas candidates](#). This outlines how our overseas registration process has been impacted by Covid-19.

## Other updates

### **NMC response to report on the mental health and wellbeing of nurses and midwives**

A new [report](#) from The Society of Occupational Medicine raised concerns about the impact of current working conditions, influenced by the pandemic, on the mental health of nurses and midwives.

The NMC has published a [response to the report](#), highlighting our concern about its findings, which echo some of the findings of our [latest registration data report and leavers' survey](#), and acknowledging the report's recommendations for regulators.

### **How our response to Covid-19 has affected diverse groups**

At the NMC, we use equality impact assessments (EqIAs) as a tool to demonstrate our work complies with equalities legislation. They help us to understand the effects of our activities on different groups of people and any actions we need to take as a result.

We know Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated some of the deep-seated inequalities experienced by people with different protected characteristics.

We have published our EqIA for the action we've taken in response to Covid-19 [here](#). It covers temporary registration, our emergency education standards, changes to fitness to practise, and all other changes we made up until the end of June. You can also read our press release [here](#).

We're sharing our EqIA as part of our commitment to transparency in our work. We would be grateful for your feedback on it, particularly in answer to two questions

- Have we missed anything that is in our role to do or influence?
- Looking to the future, are there any particular topics of concern or opportunities that we should focus on?

If you have any feedback on the EqIA please send it to [equality@nmc-uk.org](mailto:equality@nmc-uk.org). We'll update this document regularly, as long as we're taking on activity to respond to the pandemic and support the professions.

## Further information

Previous packs with additional information can be found on our website here;

- [10 July](#)
- [25 June](#)
- [15 June](#)
- [22 May](#)
- [13 May](#)
- [27 April](#)
- [20 April](#)

## Frequently asked questions

We are monitoring the queries we are regularly being asked by registrants and stakeholders and collating a list of responses to frequently asked questions. A full list of our FAQs in relation to Covid-19 can be found on [our website](#).

## Contact us

If people in your networks have any general queries about the NMC, they can contact us at 020 7333 9333. If they have questions about our temporary register they should email [tempreg@nmc-uk.org](mailto:tempreg@nmc-uk.org) or call 020 7637 7181.

As a key stakeholder of the NMC, our stakeholder relations team is also here to support with your queries and any feedback you have on our work. You can contact the team at [stakeholders@nmc-uk.org](mailto:stakeholders@nmc-uk.org).

If you are a parliamentarian, civil servant or elected official, our public affairs team will be able to answer any queries. You can contact the team at [publicaffairs@nmc-uk.org](mailto:publicaffairs@nmc-uk.org).