

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

**21 August 2020**

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## 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 19 August 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>	647	14	74	26	-	761
<b>Nurse</b>	11,202	289	1,399	591	41	13,522
<b>Midwife; Nurse</b>	119	4	12	4	1	140
<b>Total</b>	11,968	307	1,485	621	42	14,423

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](#).

## Our regulation

### Update on exemptions to our temporary register

We have updated our [website](#) to reflect the requirements and exemptions of temporary registration:

- Anybody who left the permanent register after 1 March 2020 will not be eligible for temporary registration and will need to complete our readmission process to join the permanent register if they want to re-join the health and social care workforce.
- Now that the objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) test centres in the UK have reopened, we are prioritising supporting overseas candidates to continue with their application to gain permanent registration and work without conditions of practice. This means we're no longer inviting overseas candidates onto the Covid-19 temporary register, but candidates can take their OSCE and complete a permanent application instead.

### Phasing out of revalidation extensions

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic we have offered nurses and midwives<sup>1</sup> two 12 week extensions for their revalidation submission and paused revalidation verifications.

As we move forward we are phasing out Covid-19 revalidation extensions. Nurses and midwives due to revalidate in December will be the last eligible cohort for a Covid-19 revalidation extension. Please see the updated page on our website [here](#).

## Arrangements for overseas candidates

### Contingency plans for test centres

We are working closely with our OSCE test centres to make contingency plans for further local or national lockdowns. We hope that, if that were to happen, they would be able to keep operating as key workers. However, if one of the test centres were to close, we would work with them to seek to boost capacity at the other test centres, for example by introducing extra test shifts and allowing staff to travel to the centres that remain open.

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<sup>1</sup> Nursing associates in England are not required to revalidate during this period

## Equality, diversity and inclusion

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

In July we published our [equality impact assessment](#) (EqIA) for the action we've taken in response to Covid-19. This covers temporary registration, our emergency education standards, changes to fitness to practise, and all other changes we made in relation to Covid-19 up until the end of June.

We would be grateful for your feedback on this EqIA, particularly in answer 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, for as long as we're carrying out activity to respond to the pandemic and support the professions.

## Further information

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

- [7 August](#)
- [24 July](#)
- [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).

Our [Employer Link Service](#) run an advice line for employers and relevant stakeholders in health and social care. They are available to support employers with questions or concerns about fitness to practise and the NMC's work more broadly. Call 020 7462 8850 to speak to one of our regulation advisers, or email the team at [employerlinkservice@nmcuk.org](mailto:employerlinkservice@nmcuk.org).