

Standards relating to Return to practice courses

About the NMC

The Nursing and Midwifery Council exists to protect the public. We do this by making sure that only those who meet our requirements are allowed to practise as a nurse or midwife in the UK. We take action if concerns are raised about whether a nurse or midwife is fit to practise.

This document contains the references to return to practice programmes in the NMC Revalidation and readmission standards (October 2015, NMC Council papers pages 97-101).

Revalidation standards

Practice hours and return to practice programmes

If you have practised for fewer than the required number of hours in the three year period since your registration was last renewed or you joined the register, then you must successfully complete an appropriate return to practice programme approved by the NMC before the date of your application for renewal of registration.

Readmission standards

Return to practice courses¹

In relation to an application for readmission to the register, if you are unable to comply with the applicable practice hours requirement and the applicable requirements for CPD set out in these standards, you will have to successfully complete a return to practice (RtP) course approved by the NMC.

The purpose of undertaking an RtP course is to ensure that you meet the standards of proficiency to remain or be readmitted to the relevant part of the register and to demonstrate safe practice.

RtP courses whose outcomes have been validated by the NMC must include:

- an understanding of the influence of health and social policy relevant to the practice of nursing and midwifery

- an understanding of the requirements of legislation, guidelines, codes of practice and policies relevant to the practice of nursing and midwifery
- an understanding of the current structure and organisation of care, nationally and locally
- an understanding of current issues in nursing and midwifery education and practice
- the use of relevant literature and research to inform the practice of nursing and midwifery
- the ability to identify and assess need, design and implement interventions and evaluate outcomes in all relevant areas of practice, including the effective delivery of appropriate emergency care
- the ability to use appropriate communications, teaching and learning skills
- the ability to function effectively in a team and participate in a multiprofessional approach to people's care
- the ability to identify strengths and weaknesses, acknowledge limitations of competence, and recognise the importance of maintaining and developing professional competence.

An approved RtP programme will be not less than five days in length. The length and nature of the programme will be determined by the education provider and the particular individual. This will take into account your registration history, previous levels of knowledge and experience, and any relevant experience undertaken while you have been out of professional practice.²

For further information about RtP programmes, visit www.nmc.org.uk/approved-programmes to search for universities that provide approved return to practice programmes in the UK.

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Endnotes

¹ The standards for return to practice courses were formerly part of Post Registration Education and Practice (Prep) standards.

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