Glossary for proficiency in Nursing

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The following terms and their accompanying explanations relate to the context of the standards of proficiency for registered nurses.

Abuse:

is something that may harm another person, or endanger their life, or violate their rights. The person responsible for the abuse may be doing this on purpose or may not realise the harm that they are doing. The type of abuse may be emotional, physical, sexual, psychological, material or financial, or may be due to neglect.

Contraindications:

a condition or factor that serves as a reason to withhold a certain medical treatment due to the harm that it would cause the patient.

Determinants of health:

includes the social and economic environment, the physical environment and the person's individual characteristics and behaviours.

Genomics:

branch of molecular biology concerned with the structure, function, evolution, and mapping of genomes.

Health literacy:

the degree to which individuals can obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.

Human factors:

environmental, organisational and job factors, and human and individual characteristics, which influence behaviour at work in a way which can affect health and safety.

Interventions:

any investigations, procedures, or treatments given to a person.

People:

individuals or groups who receive services from nurses, midwives and nursing associates, healthy and sick people, parents, children, families, carers, representatives, also including educators and students and other within and outside the learning environment.

Person-centred:

an approach where the person is at the centre of the decision making processes and the design of their care needs, their nursing care and treatment plan.

Strength-based approaches:

strength-based practice is a collaborative process between the person supported by services and those supporting them, working together to reach an outcome that draws on the person's strengths and assets.

Vulnerable people:

Those who at any age are at a higher risk of harm than others. Vulnerability might be in relation to a personal characteristic or a situation. The type of harm may be emotional, physical, sexual,psychological, material or financial, or may be due to neglect.

What we do

Our vision is safe, effective and kind nursing and midwiferythat improves everyone's health and wellbeing. As the independent regulator of more than 808,000* nursing and midwifery professionals, we have an important role to play in making this a reality.

Our core role is to regulate. First, we promote high professional standards or nurses and midwives across the UK, and nursing associates in England. Second, we maintain the register of professionals eligible to practise. Third, we investigate concerns about nurses, midwives and nursing associates – something that affects a tiny minority of professionals each year. We believe in giving professionals the chance to address concerns, but we'll always take action when needed.

To regulate well, we support our professions and the public. We create resources and guidance that are useful throughout people's careers, helping them to deliver our standards in practice and address new challenges. We also support people involved in our investigations, and we're increasing our visibility so people feel engaged and empowered to shape our work.

Regulating and supporting our professions allows us to influence health and social care. We share intelligence from our regulatory activities and work with our partners to support workforce planning and sector-wide decision-making.We use our voice to speak up for a healthy and inclusive working environment for our professions.