



Bord Altranais agus
Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann
Nursing and Midwifery
Board of Ireland

Section 1 of Consultation Questionnaire – Explanatory note for **Public Consultation on the Nurses and Midwives (Education and Training)(Amendment) Rules 2020**

(This explanatory note is not part of the Instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation).

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) has reviewed the Nurses and Midwives Rules, 2018 and the following amendments to **S.I. No. 218/2018 of the Principal Rules** are being proposed. Please also see notes on the questionnaire.

Rule 4(2) of the Principal Rules refers to the minimum education requirements required for admission to an education and training programme leading to first time registration on the Register of Nurses and Midwives. The Principal Rules provide that the minimum educational requirements may be accumulated over a maximum of two sittings of the Leaving Certificate Examination or an equivalent examination. The draft amended Rule provides that the minimum educational requirement may be accumulated over any number of sittings of the Leaving Certificate Examination or an equivalent examination.

Rule 5 of the Principal Rules refers to the requirements for entry to return to nursing or midwifery practice education and training programmes. The current Rule provides that nurses and midwives who are registered or have been registered on the Register of Nurses and Midwives or those who have had their professional nursing or midwifery qualifications recognised by the Board may be eligible for entry to the programme. The draft amended Rule provides that it is only nurses and midwives who have been, or are currently on the Register of Nurses and Midwives who may be eligible for entry on the programme.

Rule 6 of the Principal Rules refers to post-registration midwifery education and training programmes and the reference to 'direct entry' midwifery programmes. The proposed amendment deletes the reference to '*direct entry midwifery registration education and training programmes*' as this no longer appropriate. A person seeking admission to a post-registration education and training programme leading to

registration in the midwives division of the Register of Nurses and Midwives must be registered in the general nurses division of the register. To further qualify what this Rule relates to we have inserted 'post-registration' before 'education and training' programme.

Rule 9 of the Principal Rules refers to the Board's 'visit' to a body that delivers or seeks to deliver a nursing or midwifery education and training programme.

The Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 provides that the Board carry out an 'inspection' of such a body. The word 'visit' is replaced by 'inspection' throughout the draft amended Rule to comply with the requirements of the Act.

9(4) and (5) would be replaced with:

'A decision of the Board to approve an education and training programme under section 85(2)(a) of the Act, including approval with conditions, shall be published in the prescribed manner.' The original 9(5) mentions the web site specifically. This amendment allows for direction on this and potentially a broader scope for publication.

Rule 10 of the Principal Rules concerns annual reports and material changes. Our proposal for a change of wording to include section 85 (2) (a) of the Act is a technical change in wording. This technical change will remove the need for any reference to Rule 9 and is consistent with the primary legislative responsibilities. Our proposal reads:

10 (1)'A body granted approval under' section 85(2)(a) of the Act to deliver an education and training programme, shall, on an annual basis, provide the Board with a report in such form and manner as may be prescribed by the Board in relation to compliance of the programme with the standards and requirements, and any conditions that the Board may have imposed under that section.

10(2) provides 'A body granted approval under' Section 85 (2)(a)' of the Act to deliver an education and training programme shall notify the Board of any proposed material change to the programme.

Rule 11 of the Principal Rules concerns the review and monitoring of programmes. Our proposal for change of wording to include section 85 (2) (a) of the Act is a technical change in wording. This technical change will remove the need for any reference to Rule 9 and is consistent with the primary legislative responsibilities. Our proposal reads:

'11. (1) Where the Board has granted approval for delivery of an education and training programme under Section 85 (2) (a) it shall subsequently, and at intervals not exceeding five years, review whether the programme continues to conform with the standards and requirements, and any conditions that the Board may have imposed under that section. Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Board shall monitor adherence to the standards and requirements by education and training programmes granted approval under section 85(2)(a) and any conditions that the Board may have imposed under that section.'

Rule 12 of the Principal Rules is amended to reflect 'site inspections' and not 'site visits,' aligning the terminology with the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 and the amendment to Rule 9 (see above).

Rule 13 of the Principal Rules is amended to reflect 'site inspections' and not 'site visits,' aligning the terminology with the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 and the amendment to Rule 9 (see above).

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