

NURSES AND MIDWIVES (ADVANCED PRACTICE) RULES, 2017

ARRANGEMENT OF RULES

These rules are made pursuant to section 13 of the Nurses and Midwives Act, 2011.

***The following sections of the Statutory Instruments No. 689 of 2010
have been revoked:***

Part I, Point 2 – Interpretation

Part 2, Point 3 – The Register

3.1 (ix) and (x)

3.2 (a) and (b)

3.12

Part III, Point 4 – Requirements and Standards

4.6

4.7

***Part IV, Point 5 – Education and Training Programmes Leading to
Registration***

5.11

5.12

Part IV, Point 8 – Accreditation of Posts

PART I – PRELIMINARY

- 1. Citation**
- 2. Commencement**
- 3. Scope of the rules**

PART II -

- 4. Registration in the advanced nurse practitioner division of the register and advanced midwife practitioner division of the register**

PART III –

- 5. Standards of nursing and midwifery education and training**
- 6. Entry requirements**
- 7. Programmes of education and training leading to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division or advanced midwife practitioners division of the register of nurses and midwives**
- 8. Monitoring adherence to published standards and requirements**
- 9. Visits to approved higher education institutions and associated healthcare providers**
- 10. Responses and resolutions following reporting of visits to Higher Education Institutions and Associated Healthcare Providers for the purpose of approval and/or monitoring of programmes of education and training that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register**

Bord Altranais agus Cnáimhseachais na hÉireann (“The Board”) in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 13 of the Nurses and Midwives Act, 2011 hereby makes the following rules:—

PART I - PRELIMINARY

- 1. Citation**

1.1 These rules may be cited as the Nurses and Midwives (Advanced Practice) Rules 2017.

2. Commencement

2.1 These rules shall come into force on _____.

“professional experience” has the same meaning as the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Regulations;

“professional qualifications” has the same meaning as the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Regulations;

“PIN” {Personal Identification Number} means the number assigned by the Board to a nurse and/or midwife admitted to the register of nurses and midwives;

“register of nurses and midwives” has the same meaning as in the Act;

“registered nurse” or “nurse” means a nurse whose name is entered in the nurses division of the register of nurses and midwives;

“registered advanced nurse practitioner” means a nurse whose name is registered in the advanced nurse practitioners division;

3. Scope of the rules

3.1 These rules apply to;

- (a) Registration in the advanced nurse practitioner division of the register
- (b) Registration in the advanced midwife practitioner division of the

register

PART 2 – REGISTRATION

4. Registration in the advanced nurse practitioner division of the register and advanced midwife practitioner division of the register

- 4.1 A nurse shall be registered in the advanced nurse practitioner division of the register if the Board is satisfied that s/he meets the criteria for entry in this division of the register.
- 4.2 A midwife shall be registered in the advanced midwife practitioner division of the register if the Board is satisfied that s/he meets the criteria for entry in this division of the register.

PART 3 – EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES

5. Standards of nursing and midwifery advanced practice education and training

- 5.1 The education and training required for admission to the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements set out by the Board for that purpose, in accordance with a curriculum approved by the Board and carried out in educational institutions and associated healthcare providers approved by the Board for that purpose.
- 5.2 The education and training required for admission to the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements set out by the Board for that purpose, in accordance with a curriculum approved by the Board and carried out in educational institutions and associated healthcare providers approved by the Board for that purpose.

6. Entry requirements

- 6.1 Before admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register, the applicant's name must already be entered in one of the nurses divisions of the register
- 6.2 Before admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register, the applicant's name must already be entered in the midwives division of the register

7. Programmes of education and training leading to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division or advanced midwife practitioners division of the register of nurses and midwives

- 7.1 Programmes of education and training submitted to the Board shall contain specific criteria as published in standards and requirements

Such details shall at least—

(a) set out minimum governance requirements relating to the delivery of the programme including long-term commitment, staffing, premises, facilities, funding, policies, procedures and organisational structures,

(b) incorporate an indicative syllabus that is responsive to current healthcare needs

(c) incorporate a requirement to demonstrate the competences required to lead to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register

(e) have regard to the National Framework of Qualifications kept and maintained in accordance with Section 43 of the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 (No. 28 of 2012).

- 7.2 A recognised institution which proposes to offer a programme of education and training leading to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register shall—
- (a) make an application in writing to the Chief Education Officer in the manner and form as may, from time to time, be determined by the Board, and
- (b) satisfy the Board that the proposed programme of education and training and all matters relating to governance requirements conform with the criteria published under this rule and published Standards and Requirements
- 7.3 Subject to the provisions of this Rule, the Board shall consider an application received under paragraph 7.1 and shall grant or refuse the application
- 7.4 When considering an application under paragraph 7.1, the Board shall confirm the accuracy of the information provided in the application and may give notice in writing to the applicant requesting it to provide further information in support of its application. The Board shall be entitled to arrange a visit to the higher education institution and associated healthcare provider(s) for the purpose of ensuring compliance with Standards and Requirements specified in Rule 7.1
- 7.5 On being satisfied that the proposed programme leading to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register meets the standards and requirements referred to in paragraph 7.1, the Board shall grant its recognition and approval for the said programme
- 7.6 In granting recognition and approval to a recognised institution in respect of a programme that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register offered by it, the Board may attach such conditions as may be relevant and necessary
- 7.7 On approval of a programme that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register under this Rule, the Board shall publish a notice to that effect on the Board's website
- 7.8 Where the Board has under Rule 7.1 published new standards and requirements, the recognised institutions responsible for the award of programmes leading to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners

division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register, which have been recognised and approved by the Board under this Rule, shall make arrangements for compliance with the amended criteria by a date not later than the commencement of the subsequent academic year or by a date as may otherwise be specified by the Board

- 7.9 Where the Board proposes to amend standards and requirements referred to in paragraph 7.1, it shall publish its proposals for public consultation on the Board's website, within such reasonable period of time as specified by the Board
- 7.10 The Board shall review the standards and requirements referred to in paragraph 7.1 at intervals, having regard to national and international advancements in the theory and practice of advanced nursing and advanced midwifery and national healthcare policies and practices
- 7.11 Where the Board has recognised and granted its approval under Rule 7.1 to an advanced practice nursing or midwifery programme, it shall subsequently, and at intervals not exceeding five years, review whether the programme of education and training being provided continues to conform with the requirements of Rule 7.1 and any conditions that the Board may have imposed under Rule 7.6 in the granting of such recognition and approval. The review referred to under this rule shall be carried out in the manner set out in Rule 9 and Rule 10.

8. Monitor Adherence to Published Standards and Requirements

- 8.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 5, the Board shall monitor adherence to standards and requirements for programmes of education leading to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register

Monitoring shall include:

- (a) Obligation on recognised higher education institutions to provide annual report(s)

A recognised higher education institution, in respect of which a programme of education that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners

division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register, has been recognised and approved by the Board under Rule 6, shall on an annual basis provide the Chief Education Officer with a report to include matters relating to the programme of education and training.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph 7.1 (a), at any time a recognised higher education institution and associated healthcare provider(s), in respect of which a programme of education has been recognised and approved by the Board under Rule 6, shall notify the Chief Education Officer of any proposed material change to its programme of education and training.

(c) Site visits which will be carried out in accordance with Rule 8 and Rule 9

9. Visits to approved higher education institutions and associated healthcare providers

9.1 Where the Board considers an application received under Rule 7 or carries out monitoring under Rule 8, it shall appoint persons with relevant knowledge and experience to visit the recognised higher education institution concerned and its associated healthcare providers

9.2 Persons appointed under 9.1 in their report to the Board on the higher education institution and associated healthcare provider concerned, shall recommend that the Board—

(a) grant its recognition and approval for the proposed programme programmes of education and training that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register

(b) continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register

(c) grant its recognition and approval for the proposed programme subject to certain conditions that they shall specify,

(d) continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme subject to certain conditions that they shall specify,

(e) defer its decision on the continued recognition and approval for the programme pending the resolution, to the satisfaction of the Board, of such issues of concern arising from their visit and consultation, based upon the standards and requirements,

(f) refuse to grant its recognition and approval for the proposed programme on the basis of reasons which they shall specify, or

(g) refuse to continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme on the basis of reasons which they shall specify.

10. Responses and resolutions following reporting of visits to Higher Education Institutions and Associated Healthcare Providers for the purpose of approval and/or monitoring of programmes of education and training that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register

10.1 Subject to paragraph 8.1 the Board may, on consideration of a report of the persons appointed under Rule 9.1 and of any comments and observations received from the institution and/or associated healthcare provider concerned, by resolution—

(a) grant its recognition and approval for the proposed programme of education that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register,

(b) continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme of education recognition and approval for the programme that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register

(c) grant its recognition and approval for the proposed programme of education subject to certain conditions that it shall specify,

(d) continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme of education subject to certain conditions that it shall specify,

(e) defer its decision on the recognition and approval for the proposed programme of education pending the resolution, to the satisfaction of the Board, of such issues of concern based on the standards and requirements

(f) refuse to grant its recognition and approval for the proposed programme of education on the basis of reasons which it shall specify, or

(g) refuse to continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme of education on the basis of reasons which it shall specify.

- 10.2 Where the Board proposes to adopt a resolution that, for any reason rising from the requirements of these rules, would have the effect of refusing to grant its recognition and approval for a proposed programme of education that leads to registration in the advanced nurse practitioners division of the register or the advanced midwife practitioners division of the register, or of refusing to continue the recognition and approval of a previously recognised and approved programme of education, it shall notify the institution accordingly and any such notification shall include a statement that the institution has the right to make representations to the Board in response to the notification, within such reasonable period of time as specified by the Board, and the Board shall, after consideration of any representations it may receive from the institution concerned, decide whether to grant recognition and approval or confirm or alter its proposal to refuse to grant or to continue to grant its recognition and approval, as the case may be.