

PROFESSIONAL
STANDARDS
MIDWIFERY
& NURSING

Guidelines on **Ethical Standards and Behaviours for Student Nurses and Student Midwives** on the NMBI Candidate Register



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

Introduction

Bord Altranais agus Cndimhseachais na hÉireann (The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland) as described in the Nurses and Midwives Act 2011, has two main objectives:

- to protect the public, and
- to ensure the integrity of nursing and midwifery practices.

The Board is the statutory body which sets the standards for the education, registration, and professional conduct of nurses and midwives. It also advises on how nurses and midwives should provide care to patients¹, their families, and society.

The Board's functions in safeguarding the public involve establishing and maintaining the Register of Nurses and Midwives. It also establishes procedures and criteria for assessment and registration. Additionally, the Board approves education programmes and further education programmes run by Higher Education Authorities (HEIs) for the purposes of registration and continued registration and keeps these programmes under review.

The Board also sets the standards of practice and provides support for registered nurses and midwives. This includes developing, publishing, and reviewing:

- a code of professional conduct and ethics;
- guidance on all aspects of professional conduct and ethics; and
- guidance on maintaining professional competence.

The Nurses and Midwives Act 2011 S85(2)(i) requires that:

The Board shall in relation to programmes of pre first time registration...prepare and publish in the prescribed manner guidelines for bodies approved.... On ethical standards and behaviour appropriate for nurses, midwives, and candidates.

This guideline is for candidates/student nurses and student midwives and sets out the ethical standards and behaviour expected.

Candidate Register

NMBI is required to maintain a candidate register. The candidate register has names and relevant details of candidates who are undertaking pre-registration education programmes leading to registration on the Nurses or Midwives Division of the Register (student nurses/student midwives). (The candidate register also includes applicants to the Register who are undertaking a period of adaptation and assessment.) The approved HEI carries the responsibility of ensuring that student nurses and student midwives (candidates) are registered on the NMBI Candidate Register before such candidate undertakes their first clinical placement. Candidates are provided with a Personal Identification Number (PIN) once entered on the Register.

¹ The term patient is which reflects all persons who use health and social care services. In some instances, the term client, individual person, resident, service user, mother, woman or baby are used in place of the term patient depending on the health or social care setting.

Candidate's Responsibilities

- As a candidate/student nurse/student midwife, you will come into direct contact with patients and will actively participate in giving care appropriate to your level of knowledge and practical experience, with the appropriate supervision and direction of a registered nurse/midwife.
- As a candidate/student nurse/student midwife that providing care to a patient, you may also interact with as appropriate with family members (including parents) and other informal carers linked to the patient – such persons must be afforded the same ethical and privacy standards and as guided by your preceptor.
- As a candidate/student nurse/student midwife you must clearly identify yourself as a student, distinct from a registered nurse/registered midwife when introducing yourself to the patient.
- As a candidate/student nurse/student midwife you have a responsibility to act in the best interests of your patient under the guidance and supervision of your preceptor.
- As a candidate/student nurse/student midwife, it is important that you do not undertake care for which you have not been prepared for or which you are not sufficiently supervised.
- Access to and use of the patient's records must be with the supervision of a registered nurse/registered midwife.
- Should you wish to refer to the care of an individual patient as part of your academic work, you must seek permission from the patient and from your Clinical Placement Coordinator and you must ensure that you do not identify the patient or health care facility.
- You are required to familiarise yourself with the local policies and guidelines regarding how the confidentiality of records and data protection is maintained within the particular healthcare facility.
- You are required to familiarise yourself with local HEI policies and guidelines relating to engagement with the media, including social media. If engaging with such media in your capacity as a candidate/student nurse or student midwife, or reasonably identifiable as such, you have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the profession, respect patient and colleague confidentiality be well-informed and truthful in such engagements.



Important Guidance

You are required to familiarise yourself with the following NMBI publications:

- [Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives \(2021\)](#)
- [Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework \(2015\)](#)
- [Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Social Media and Social Networking \(June 2013\)](#)
- [Guidance for Registered Nurses and Midwives on Medication Administration \(2020\)](#)

Further to this, you are required to familiarise yourself with the NMBI website, in particular the Standards and Guidance section.

Student nurses are also required to familiarise themselves with:

- [Nurse Registration Programme Standards and Requirements \(2016\)](#)

Student midwives are also required to familiarise themselves with:

- [Requirements and Standards for the Midwife Registration Education Programme \(2015\)](#)
- [Practice Standards for Midwives \(2015\)](#)

