

# Humanitarian Purpose Practice Permit



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

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The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) is introducing a 'Humanitarian Practice Permit'.

This comes with the commencement of a section of the Nurses and Midwives Act (NMA) (2011) - Section 41 of Part 6 (Registration and Practice).

Under Section 39 of the act a person cannot practise the profession of nursing or midwifery without being registered in the relevant division of the Register. Section 41, provides for limited circumstances - rendering first aid or 'humanitarian purpose' - in which a person can practise nursing or midwifery without obtaining full registration in the Republic of Ireland.

It is important to note that Section 41 only applies to a person who is qualified to practice nursing and midwifery in another jurisdiction outside of the Republic of Ireland and European Union member states. The humanitarian purpose permit issued by the NMBI is valid for the person to practise in the Republic of Ireland for up to a maximum of 30 days.

The parameters of 'humanitarian purpose' are:

- a. Patient transfer (emergency and acute clinical care)
- b. Healthcare education programme that requires the nurse/midwife to be in a clinical area
- c. Accompanying a client/person for a sporting event
- d. Patient support for short term respite care.

\*It is very important to note that outside these parameters, the nurse/midwife will be required to apply to NMBI for full registration.

## Who can apply for a NMBI 'Humanitarian Purpose Practice Permit'?

The permit applies to nurses/midwives from non-EU member states based on the need to practise for a humanitarian purpose.

EU member state registrants can apply to practise in Ireland through the 'Temporary and Occasional Registration' route. An online application can be made for a European Professional Card (EPC) certificate through the European Internal Market Information System (IMI). By subsequently requesting the 'Temporary and Occasional' Registration route for Ireland, successful applicants may be provided with up to 12 months registration.

Please click here for more information: [European Professional Card: your qualifications recognised abroad - Your Europe \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu/european-professional-card/)



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## What are the terms and conditions of the 'Humanitarian Purpose Practice Permit'?

- 1) An application for a permit must be made in advance of the nurse/midwife carrying out any nursing/midwifery roles through a dedicated email using the application form
- 2) In emergency cases, the NMBI will accept a permit request 3 working days after the service was provided
- 3) The nurse/midwife must provide
  - I. a valid Certificate of Current Professional Practice issued by the regulator from the home country/jurisdiction
  - II. a copy of their current passport as proof of identity\*
  - III. a certificate of good standing
  - IV. evidence of Professional Indemnity
  - V. a completed permit application form
- 4) The nurse/midwife will advise the NMBI of their intention to provide a temporary service of patient transfer. The service provider must provide a declaration of the patient transfer.
- 5) The nurse/midwife must use the title obtained by their regulator in their home country/jurisdiction rather than using the Irish equivalent.
- 6) The nurse/midwife will be issued a 'Humanitarian Practice Permit' with a unique identifier. The nurse/midwife will not be issued an NMBI Registration number.
- 7) In the case of a nurse/midwife attending an educational programme, the nurse/midwife must provide evidence of an education programme that requires supervised attendance in a healthcare setting with the potential of interacting with patients.
- 8) The humanitarian purpose will be detailed in the permit and practise will be restricted to this parameter only.
- 9) Fitness to Practise rules applies to the permit holder as per their regulator from their home country/jurisdiction.
- 10) The permit expires after 30 days. The nurse/midwife must apply for full registration with the NMBI if intending to continue practising in the Republic of Ireland.
- 11) NMBI has the right to refuse the granting of a permit.

\*Please note that a certified copy is a photocopy which has been certified by an appropriate authority as a true copy of the original. To obtain a certified copy of your document, you must bring your original document(s) to one of the certifying authorities on the list below. The certifying authority must confirm that they have seen the original document. They must state their full name and profession, and stamp, sign and date the photocopy of the document.

### Certifying authorities

Solicitor or Lawyer	Notary public
Peace Commissioner	Justice of the Peace
Commissioner for Oaths	Post Office (United Kingdom only)

### How do I apply?

To apply for the 'Humanitarian Practice Permit' please download this form and return to [regservices@nmbi.ie](mailto:regservices@nmbi.ie) with 'Humanitarian Purpose Practice Permit' in the subject line.