

NURSES AND MIDWIVES (EDUCATION & TRAINING) RULES, 2018

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 1

Citation

- 1.1 These rules may be cited as the Nurses and Midwives (Education and Training Rules, 2017).
- 1.2 The Nurses Rules 2010 and 2013 are hereby revoked in full.

Commencement

- 2.1 These Rules shall come into operation on _____.

Interpretation

3. In these rules,—

“Act” means the Nurses and Midwives Act, 2011;

“approved healthcare provider” means a healthcare facility approved by the Board wherein applicants for registration in a division of the register of nurses and midwives may complete a clinical placement;

“approved programme of study” means a course of study, approved by the Board pursuant to section 85 of the Act;

“Board” has the same meaning as in the Act;

“division or divisions” means division or divisions of the register of nurses and midwives;

Scope of the rules

- 4.1 These Rules apply to;
 - (a) Nursing or midwifery education programmes leading to registration on a division or divisions of the register of nurses and midwives and specialist nursing and midwifery

education and training programmes leading to annotation on the register of nurses and midwives

- (b) Minimum requirements for entry to education and training programmes that lead to registration in a division of the register
- (c) Various miscellaneous issues relating to education and training which affect all candidates, registered nurses, registered midwives, higher education institutions, associated healthcare providers approved by the board for the purpose of education and training of nurses and midwives.

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PART II

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES

5. Standards of nursing and midwifery education and training

5.1 Standards of nursing and midwifery education and training for first time registration in the register of nurses and midwives:

- (a) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the General Nurses 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 the education and training of General Nurses.
- (b) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Psychiatric Nurses 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 the education and training of Psychiatric Nurses.
- (c) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Children's Nurses 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 the education and training of Children's Nurses.
- (d) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to both the Children's and General Nurses Divisions of the Register shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements set out by the Board for that purpose, in accordance with an integrated curriculum approved by the Board and carried out in educational institutions and associated healthcare providers approved by the Board for the education and training of Children's and General Nurses.

- (e) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Intellectual Disability Nurses 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 the education and training of Intellectual Disability Nurses.
- (f) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Midwives 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 the education and training of Midwives.
- (g) In the case of a person whose name is already entered in one of the Divisions of the Register referred to in paragraphs a, b, c, d and e of this Rule and who wish to be registered in one of the other Divisions referred to in those paragraphs, the education and training shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements set out by the Board for such shortened period of education and training for that other Division, 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 Standards of nursing and midwifery education and training for post-registration specialist nursing and midwifery qualifications

- (a) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Public Health Nurses Division of the Register shall be in accordance with the requirements and standards 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.

- (b) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Nurse Tutors 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.
- (c) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Nurse Prescribers 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.
- (d) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, 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.
- (e) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Midwife Tutors 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.
- (f) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, the education and training required for admission to the Midwife Prescribers 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.
- (g) Subject to Rule 6 of these Rules, 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. Minimum requirements for admission to education and training programmes in Ireland leading to first time registration in a division of the register of nurses and midwives

6.1 Before admission to a programme, leading to registration in a division of register of nurses and midwives, the applicant must:

- (a) have obtained in the Leaving Certificate Examination a minimum of Grade H5 in two papers and a minimum of Grade O6/H7 in four papers in the following subjects:
 - (i) Irish or English
 - (ii) Mathematics
 - (iii) A Laboratory Science Subject (Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Physics and Chemistry or Agricultural Science)
 - (iv) Three other subjects, or
- (b) have achieved the equivalent minimum educational attainments to the foregoing, such equivalent attainments to be adjudicated upon by the Higher Education Authority established under the Higher Education Act, 1971 (No. 22 of 1971), or
- (c) meet the minimum educational requirement specified by the third level institution concerned for entry to the programme provided that such requirements are not of a lower standard than those set out in subparagraph (a) above, or

- (d) in the case of an applicant who is 23 years of age or over on the first day of January of the year of admission satisfy the Board in such manner as may be determined by it of his or her suitability to undertake the programme.
- 6.2 The minimum educational requirements referred to in the foregoing paragraph may be accumulated over any number of sittings of the Leaving Certificate Examination or an equivalent examination.
- 6.3 Admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the Midwives Division of the Register, other than the direct entry midwifery registration education programme, is confined to those persons whose name is entered in the General Nurses Division of the Register.
- 6.4 Before admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the Public Health Nurses Division of the Register, the name of the applicant for registration must already be entered in the General Nurses Division of the Register and the applicant must have two years clinical experience in nursing. Unless the applicant's name is registered in the Midwives Division of the Register, the applicant must complete a Board approved module or unit of study on Maternal and Child Health as part of the programme.
- 6.5 Before admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the Nurse Tutors Division of the Register, the applicant's name must already be entered in one of the Nurses Divisions of the Register.
- 6.6 Before admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the Nurse Prescribers Division of the Register, the applicant's name must already be entered in one of the Nurses Divisions of the Register.
- 6.7 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.

- 6.8 Before admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the Midwife Tutors Division of the Register, the applicant's name must already be entered in the Midwives Division of the Register.
- 6.9 Before admission to the programme of education and training leading to registration in the Midwife Prescribers Division of the Register, the applicant's name must already be entered in the Midwives Division of the Register.
- 6.10 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 for registration in a division or divisions of the register of nurses and midwives or specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes.**
- 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 the competencies set out in the Requirements and Standards for first time registration, post registration leading to registration or annotation and specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to registration in a division of the register of nurses and midwives
 - (d) demonstrate a minimum standard of knowledge, skill and competence in relation to National and European legislation as it pertains to nursing and midwifery

(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 first time registration, post registration leading to registration or annotation and specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to registration for the purpose of Rule 5, shall—
- (a) make an application in writing to the Board in the manner and form prescribed by the Board from time to time, 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 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 on a division or division of the register of nurses and midwives or the specialist nursing or midwifery education and training programme, 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 in nursing or midwifery offered by it, the Board may attach such conditions as may be relevant and necessary
- 7.7 On approval of a programme in nursing or midwifery 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 on a division or division of the register of nurses and midwives or the specialist nursing or midwifery education and training programme, 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 nursing and midwifery and national healthcare policies and practices
- 7.11 Where the Board has recognised and granted its approval under Rule 7.1 to a 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 8 and Rule 9.

Part III

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 and training leading to first time registration, post registration leading to registration or annotation and specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to registration

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 leading to registration on a division or divisions of the register of nurses or midwives or specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to registration, has been recognised and approved by the Board under Rule 7, shall on an annual basis provide the Board with a report to include matters relating to the programme of education and training.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph 8.1 (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 7, shall notify the Board of any proposed material change to its programme of education and training.

(c) Site visits which will be carried out in accordance with Rule 9 and Rule 10

9. Site 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 leading to registration on a division or divisions of the register of nurses or midwives or specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to annotation on the register of nurses and midwives.

(b) continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme leading to programmes of education and training leading to registration on a division or divisions of the register of nurses or midwives or specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to annotation on the register of nurses and midwives.

(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. Board decisions 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 leading to registration in a division or division of the register of nurses and midwives or specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to annotation on the register of nurses and midwives

10.1 Subject to paragraph 10.1 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 leading to leading to registration on a division or divisions of the register of nurses or midwives or specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to annotation on the register of nurses and midwives.

(b) continue to grant its recognition and approval for the programme of education recognition and approval for the programme leading to registration on a division or divisions of the register of nurses or midwives or specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to annotation on the register of nurses and midwives.

(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 leading to first time registration, post registration leading to registration or annotation and specialist nursing and midwifery education and training programmes leading to registration, 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.