



## Dual registration as a nurse and a midwife

Under the National Law, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) maintains two registers, one for nurses and one for midwives.

Individuals who have completed an NMBA approved course leading to registration as a nurse and as a midwife appear on both registers.

Holding registration as both a registered nurse (RN) and a midwife **OR** as both an enrolled nurse (EN) and a midwife is called **dual registration**.

It is the responsibility of each individual with dual registration to understand and comply with the NMBA registration standards, both as a nurse and as a midwife. This is particularly relevant to the NMBA *Registration Standards for Continuing Professional Development (CPD)* and for *Recency of Practice*, when registration is renewed each year.

### Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

If an individual is registered as a nurse and a midwife they are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of CPD per registration period for each registration. That is, 20 hours as a registered nurse and 20 hours as a midwife, or 20 hours as an enrolled nurse and 20 hours as a midwife. Nurses and midwives who hold an endorsement on their registration, must complete an additional 10 hours of CPD per endorsement.

The CPD undertaken must be relevant to the context of practice. If a CPD activity is relevant to both nursing and midwifery practice it may be counted as evidence for both nursing and midwifery CPD hours.

Evidence of CPD activities must be kept for 5 years.

All nurses and midwives must understand and comply with the NMBA *Registration Standard: Continuing Professional Development*.

### Recency of Practice

Individuals who are dual registered as both a nurse and a midwife are required to maintain recency of practice by ensuring they have completed a minimum of 450 hours practice within the last 5 years, for each registration.

Recency of practice means that a nurse and/or midwife maintains an adequate connection with, and recent practice in, the profession/s (NMBA *Fact sheet: Recency of practice*). This may be demonstrated by providing a certificate of service from your employer or pay slips.

While nursing and midwifery are separate professions, the NMBA recognises there is shared practice that is common to nursing and midwifery (NMBA *Fact sheet: Context of practice for registered nurses and midwives*). A nurse and midwife with dual registration must be able to demonstrate that they have met recency of practice for each registration.

Depending on your context of practice some **examples** of common practice may include:

- Assessment (physical, cognitive, psychosocial)
- Monitoring vital signs
- Provision of education



- Medicines administration
- Pain management
- Nutrition management
- Pre and post-operative care
- Family planning
- Care of the neonate
- Gynaecological care
- Infection control
- Wound management
- Bereavement counselling

All nurses and midwives must understand and comply with the NMBA *Registration standard: Recency of practice*. If audited, individuals will need to demonstrate they have met recency of practice for both registrations, with each case considered on an individual basis. It is recommended that members contact their Branch for additional assistance if required.

#### References

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2016, *Registration standard: Continuing professional development*, viewed 12 September 2016, [file:///C:/Users/julianneb/Downloads/Nursing-and-Midwifery-Board---Registration-standard---Continuing-professional-development---1-June-2016%20\(3\).PDF](file:///C:/Users/julianneb/Downloads/Nursing-and-Midwifery-Board---Registration-standard---Continuing-professional-development---1-June-2016%20(3).PDF)

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2016, *Fact sheet: continuing professional development*, viewed 12 September 2016, <file:///C:/Users/julianneb/Downloads/Nursing-and-Midwifery-Board---Fact-sheet---Continuing-professional-development---1-February-2016.PDF>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2016, *Fact sheet: recency of practice*, viewed 12 September 2016, <file:///C:/Users/julianneb/Downloads/Nursing-and-Midwifery-Board---Fact-sheet---Recency-of-practice---1-February-2016.PDF>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2016, *Fact sheet: Context of practice for registered nurses and midwives*, viewed 12 September 2016, <file:///C:/Users/julianneb/Downloads/Nursing-and-Midwifery-Board---Fact-sheet---Context-of-practice-for-registered-nurses-and-midwives.PDF>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. 2016, *Registration standard: Recency of practice*, viewed 12 September 2016, [file:///C:/Users/julianneb/Downloads/Nursing-and-Midwifery-Board---Registration-standard---Recency-of-practice---1-June-2016%20\(2\).PDF](file:///C:/Users/julianneb/Downloads/Nursing-and-Midwifery-Board---Registration-standard---Recency-of-practice---1-June-2016%20(2).PDF)