

AN BORD ALTRANAIS

NEWS

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An Bord Altranais establishes the Divisions of Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioner (RANP) and Registered Advanced Midwife Practitioner (RAMP)

An overview of the development of the structures and processes being put in place for the Board's newly established regulatory frameworks for advanced practice is presented here.

Governance Structure for Accrediting Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) and Advanced Midwife Practitioner (AMP) Posts and Registration of ANP/AMPs

An Bord Altranais have established a Committee for Advanced Practice to fulfil the new functions assigned to it in S.I. No. 3 of 2010 and signed on 4th June into Nurses Rules 2010 by the Minister of Health and Children. (The S.I. and Nurses Rules can be found on our website, www.nursingboard.ie).

The Committee will determine if a nurse or midwife meets criteria for registration in the ANP or AMP Division of the Register. It is also charged with determining if a Post meets the criteria of the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery and should be accredited by An Bord Altranais as an ANP or AMP Post. The Committee will also consider and recommend to the Board if a post or ANP or AMP no longer meets the criteria of the National Council.

The Committee comprises seven members of An Bord Altranais and four members of the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery. Representing An Bord Altranais are Ms. Mary Godfrey (Chair), Ms. Pauline Treanor, Mr. John Murray, Ms. Virginia Pye, Ms. Ann Sheehan, Ms. Cathryn Lee, and Ms. Orla O'Reilly. The National Council representatives are Ms. Valerie Small, Ms. Aileen Murray, Ms. Mary Brosnan and Mr. Brendan Byrne.

Processes

The Committee for Advanced Practice met on 26th July and additional meetings are arranged for the remainder of 2010 including an early September date.

A comprehensive information booklet is currently being prepared to assist applicants and organisations regarding specific documents to be submitted and the fee required by the Board for application for ANP/AMP registration and accreditation of posts. The Registration Department of An Bord Altranais will be responsible for receipt and processing of applications.

Communication

An Bord Altranais will be communicating information about the application processes to:

- all individuals who are currently accredited by the National Council as ANP/AMPs,
- key persons regarding the posts approved by the National Council

The review and processing of applications for ANP/AMP registration will be prioritised by An Bord Altranais and the Committee commencing with those previously accredited and in an approved post and considering those posts and positions which were deemed to have met the National Council Standards and Criteria but were not accredited. With regard to persons and posts previously assessed by the National Council the Committee is accepting the National Council documentation as part of the process in reaching a determination regarding persons and posts.

The National Council will continue to provide support and expert advice to services and individuals in the development of advanced practice roles.

Updates on the progress of the structures and processes for the regulatory framework for Advanced Nursing and Midwifery Practice positions and posts are available on the Board's website, www.nursingboard.ie.

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An Bord Altranais National Conference 2010

Patient Safety: Regulating to Safeguard the Patient.

The National Conference, organised by An Bord Altranais, was held on Tuesday, 18th May at the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

In her welcome introduction to the Minister for Health and Children, Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., Mrs Anne Carrigy, President of An Bord Altranais said the conference gives an opportunity to formally demonstrate aspects of policies related to safeguarding patient safety in Ireland and Europe.

Mrs. Carrigy paid tribute to the Minister as a champion in the development of nursing and midwifery. She outlined how the Minister has provided legislation to enable nurse prescribing of medicinal products and ionising radiation and had recently signed a statutory instrument to allow the establishment of divisions of An Bord Altranais Register for advanced nurse practitioners and advanced midwife practitioners. She went on to say that the Minister had proposed the Nurses and Midwives Bill which was

currently being debated in the Houses of the Oireachtas. Mrs. Carrigy congratulated the Minister on the many provisions in the legislation which "...will ensure the continued development of nursing and midwifery in Ireland and also ensure the quality of services to patients in the care of nurses and midwives".

Speakers presented papers on a wide range of topics ranging from theoretical considerations for patient safety to practical examples for increasing patient safety in the clinical setting.

The presentations made by conference speakers are available for download in a single PDF file or as individual presentations from the News and Events section of An Bord Altranais website, www.nursingboard.ie.



Front row l to r: Dr. Siobhan O'Halloran, Health Service Executive; Prof. Tony Hazel, Nursing & Midwifery Council, UK; Mrs. Anne Carrigy, President, An Bord Altranais; Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., Minister for Health & Children; Ms. Dragica Simunec, Croatian Nursing Council; Ms. Zorica Pakrajac Repeslj, Interpreter; Ms. Kathy Apple & Ms. Laura Rhodes, The National Council of States Boards of Nursing, USA.

Back row l to r: Ms. Margaret Brennan, Health Service Executive; Dr. Anne-Marie Ryan, An Bord Altranais; Mr. Dragan Sasic, Serbian Chamber of Nurses; Mr. John Murray, Vice-President, An Bord Altranais; Dr. Eugene Donoghue, An Bord Altranais; Ms. Kathy George & Dr. Katerina Kolyva, Nursing & Midwifery Council, UK.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Courses at Milford Care Centre, Castletroy, Limerick.

Contact: Breda Trimble-Moloney
Tel: (061) 485 841/714/881
Email: education@milfordcarecentre.ie
Website: www.milfordcarecentre.ie

Introduction to Palliative Care

Dates: Wednesday 15th & Thursday, 16th September 2010

Cancer & Reflexology

Date: Saturday, 18th September 2010

Advanced Communication Skills in Palliative Care (3 day workshop)

Dates: Monday, 20th – Wednesday, 22nd September 2010

European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care (8 week distance learning course)

Date: Commencing Monday, 27th September 2010

Intravenous Fluid Administration

Date: Wednesday, 29th September 2010

CINAHL Workshop

Date: Thursday, 30th September 2010

Male Catheterisation

Date: Tuesday, 5th October 2010

PEG Tube Replacement

Date: Thursday, 7th October 2010

End of Life Care Pain Management & Syringe Driver Workshop

Date: Thursday, 14th October 2010

Subcutaneous Fluid Administration

Date: Thursday, 21st October 2010

Palliative Emergencies

Date: Thursday, 28th October 2010

Venepuncture

Date: Thursday, 4th November 2010

Advanced Communication Skills in Palliative Care (3 day workshop)

Dates: Monday, 8th – Wednesday, 10th November 2010

Critical Evidence Workshop

Date: Thursday, 18th November 2010

Professional Portfolio Development

Date: Tuesday, 14th December 2010

Course at the Education and Research Centre, Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W.

Tel: (01) 406 8810/806
Email: education@olh.ie
Website: www.olh.ie

Syringe Driver Workshop (3 hours)

Date: Wednesday, 13th October 2010

Courses organised by Clinical Quality Ireland

Venue: Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin
Contact: Tony Duffy
Tel: 087 298 2097
Email: cqj@eircom.net
Website: www.cqj.ie

Clinical Audit for Healthcare Professionals

Dates: Thursday, 14th & Friday, 15th October 2010
Thursday, 10th & Friday, 11th February 2011
Thursday, 12th & Friday, 13th May 2011

Cost: €395 (includes course manual, lunch, tea/coffee and ongoing support)

Introduction to Sexuality in Healthcare

Dates: Thursday, 25th November 2010
Thursday, 17th February 2011

Cost: €165 (includes course manual, lunch, tea/coffee and ongoing support)

LAUNCH OF PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR MIDWIVES



L to r: Mrs. Anne Carrigy, Ms. Miriam O'Callaghan and Dr. Eugene Donoghue

The *Practice Standards for Midwives* (An Bord Altranais, 2010) was launched by Ms. Miriam O'Callaghan on Wednesday, 16th June 2010 in the offices of An Bord Altranais. The Standards which came into force on 1st July 2010 are clear and unambiguous. They will be updated in line with any new legislation relevant to midwifery practice. Each midwife on the Midwifery Division of An Bord Altranais Register has been issued with a copy. The Standards may also be downloaded from An Bord Altranais website at www.nursingboard.ie.



Liam O'Toole at the launch

European Council of Nursing Regulators Meet in Dublin



Mrs. Anne Carrigy, President of FEPI & President of An Bord Altranais, chairing the FEPI meeting.

An Bord Altranais hosted the European Council of Nursing Regulators (FEPI) Working Group on Education, Training and Competencies on 17th May 2010 and the General Assembly of FEPI which was held on 19th May 2010. Approval was given to the Republic of Serbia who had applied for full membership of FEPI. The Minister of Health and Children, Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., hosted a special reception and dinner at Farmleigh House on the evening of 19th May, 2010. A seminar on European affairs was held on 20th May, 2010. The meeting was attended by representatives from Italy, Greece, Belgium, Serbia, UK, Romania, Croatia and USA.



An Bord Altranais introduced this column to respond to queries from nurses and midwives with regard to their scope of practice. The queries will be addressed in a manner that protects the identity of the individual nurse, midwife or healthcare facility.

QUESTION:

I work part time as one of the nurse managers in a private nursing home which recently opened. I am focusing on developing and supporting the nurses' role and responsibilities in medication management as I noticed that we need to improve our standards for medication reviews. I want to make sure we are working within our scope of practice and that this should be a collaborative effort with the prescriber and the pharmacist. I have referenced the HIQA Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People and An Bord Altranais publications on medication management and guidance for nurses working with older people. Are there any other points I should consider for reviewing with staff?

RESPONSE:

Medication reviews are an important aspect of a person's plan of care in any health care setting. The collaborative approach with the prescriber (whether they be a medical practitioner, registered nurse prescriber or dentist) and the pharmacist for activities of medication management is recognised as best practice.

Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management (2007) and *Professional Guidance for Nurses Working with Older People (2009)* provide detailed direction to nurses about the standards of care expected with reference to national guidelines and relevant legislation (e.g. medicines and health). It is important for nurses who are working with registered nurse prescribers to be familiar with the *Practice Standards for Nurses and Midwives with Prescriptive Authority (2007)* in order to understand the Registered Nurse Prescriber's scope of practice for prescribing. Other professional regulators i.e. the Medical Council and the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI) have published guidance and standards for their registrants about medication management that not only

addresses medication review but other points for good, safe medication management practices.

The *Guide to Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Medical Practitioners (2009)* state the standards of prescribing for doctors and other matters related to patient care. The guide can be accessed from the Medical Council website at www.medicalcouncil.ie. Recently the PSI published the practice notice *Supply by Pharmacists of Medicines to Patients in Residential Care Settings/Nursing Homes* which includes information about the pharmacists' responsibilities for review and monitoring of the resident's medications and counselling for the patient. This guidance and other information are available at www.pharmaceuticalsociety.ie.

Other resources include the Mental Health Commission (www.mhcirl.ie) and the *Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People Regulations (Government of Ireland, 2009)*.

Every health care professional has a responsibility in providing high standards of care. An awareness of other health care professional's standards may help nurses in defining and working within their own scope of practice as it relates to the collaborative nature of medication management.

QUESTION:

A situation arose where I work as an assistant director of nursing in a hospital which involved nursing documentation. A nurse altered his initial entry of documentation relating to the timing and duration of a patient's procedure. I believe he was falsifying the record as it was not a late or corrected entry but just crossed out and rewritten. I am not able to share additional details because I do not want any identifying information published but I am concerned that some nursing staff do not realise the significance of their professional responsibilities and scope of practice for documenting nursing

care. I am following our organisation's policy for investigating this incident. Can An Bord Altranais provide me with key points regarding documentation standards and guidance that will assist me in highlighting the basic competencies of documentation and professional practice when addressing these professional issues with this nurse?

RESPONSE:

As you have noted in your concern there are serious implications for falsifying and removing/deleting documentation from a patient's chart from legal and professional regulation perspectives.

An Bord Altranais has established standards for documentation that are detailed in a number of guidance documents. *Recording Clinical Practice Guidelines (2002)* addresses the purposes of good record management, the legal considerations and gives specific guidelines for good practice for documenting nursing/midwifery care. Specific reference is given to recording in chronological order (Section 7.6) entries made in error (Section 7.11).

The Code of Professional Conduct for Each Nurse and Midwife (2000) specifically states that the nursing profession demands a high standard of professional behaviour for its members and each registered nurse is accountable for his or her practice. There are a number of other principles e.g. responsibility of care, professional competency, respect and trust referred to in the Code that would be relevant to discuss with this nurse in the context of documentation standards. The concept of accountability detailed in the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework is another key principle to review with staff for ensuring safe ethical professional practice which is reflected in the documentation of patient care.

Organisational policy should also be referred to with regard to standards and procedures for documentation.

If you have a query with regard to scope of practice that you would like to see addressed in this column, please email education@nursingboard.ie or telephone and speak to one of the Education Officers. An Bord Altranais will continue to offer assistance to nurses and midwives who wish to discuss their queries privately. An Bord Altranais publications are available on the website at www.nursingboard.ie or from the offices of the Board – Tel: (01) 639 8562.

On-line Survey about An Bord Altranais News

An Bord Altranais Newsletter will be undergoing some changes in the near future. The current newsletter has been distributed in its current quarterly format since 1984. It is distributed in hard copy and sent to every nurse and midwife on the Live Register to their mailing address. This amounts to 67,000 people at a cost of €270,000 per annum. In order to fund the development of improved communication channels, the production of the newsletter will be reduced to two (2) copies per annum from 2011. The Board is currently exploring other communication options and methodologies with the professions related to its functions under the Nurses Act 1985, and taking cognisance of the Nurses and Midwives Bill 2010.

In order to better understand what you need from the newsletter, we have developed an online survey. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide up to date information regarding regulation, education and training, fitness to practise and guidance to the professions. Within the parameters of the functions of An Bord Altranais, the survey aims to establish to what extent the newsletter is meeting the needs of the professions and to determine how the newsletter can better serve you.

The survey consists of 16 questions arranged in two sections, - specific information regarding the newsletter and a profile of respondents. Your help in completing both sections would be much appreciated.

Anonymity and confidentiality are assured. Your personal information will not be used for any purpose other than this survey.

The survey is now available on our website, www.nursingboard.ie.

Complete the survey by 30th September 2010 for a chance to win a €150 gift voucher.

You will be required to provide your An Bord Altranais PIN and email address to be entered into the draw in response to the optional number 16 question.

The results will be published once complete.

Information for Nurses and Midwives

Irish Hospice Foundation's Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme

On 19th May 2010 the *National Audit of End-of-Life Care in Hospitals in Ireland, 2008/2009*, and Quality Standards for End-of-Life Care in Hospitals were launched. These publications were produced jointly by the Irish Hospice Foundation, the Atlantic Philanthropies and the Health Service Executive (HSE).

The audit, completed in 24 acute hospitals and in 19 community hospitals, contributed to the development of the Standards document. Each hospital received a confidential report of the audit carried out in its premises.

Results of the audit showed that hospital admissions through Accident and Emergency Departments negatively impact on care outcomes at the end of life. It also demonstrated that about one-fifth of acute hospital patients could have died at home if there were sufficient supports available.

The audit found significant differences in the assessment of doctors, nurses and relatives of care outcomes and the quality of death. Doctors tended to under-estimate the negative aspects of care, relatives were inclined to over-estimate them, while nurses held an intermediate position.

The *Quality Standards for End-of-Life Care*, developed by Ms. Helen Donovan of the Irish Hospitals Friendly Programme, and launched by Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, set out a shared vision of the end-of-life care each person should have and what each hospital should aim for. The Standards address four areas in line with the responsibilities of hospitals and staff and the needs of patients and families:

1. THE HOSPITAL – The hospital has systems in place to ensure that end-of-life care is central to the mission of the hospital and is organised around the needs of patients.
2. THE STAFF – The staff are supported through training and development to ensure that they are competent.
3. THE PATIENT – Each patient receives high quality end-of-life care that is appropriate to his/her needs and wishes.
4. THE FAMILY – The family members are provided with compassionate support and, subject to the patient's consent, given information before, during, and after the patient's death.

Both the Audit and the Standards documents can be accessed on www.hospicefriendlyhospitals.net.

Irish Premature Babies

Irish Premature Babies is a new voluntary group that has been established to support the families of pre-term babies, to represent the welfare of parents and to provide relevant information for parents who have preterm babies in Ireland. The group represent parents from around the country. Its website, www.irishprematurebabies.com, offers parents a one stop shop that provides comprehensive information pertaining to having a premature birth in Ireland. Among the issues covered are statutory rights and entitlements and sharing experiences of having a premature baby. In addition the group have instituted a 'buddy system' of volunteers around the country who are available for informal chats with parents who have already gone through the premature baby journey.

Further information can be obtained by logging onto the website or by emailing info@irishprematurebabies.com.

Irish Medication Safety Network

The Irish Medication Safety Network, established in 2007, is a voluntary group of pharmacy-based specialists. The group's principal aim is to improve patient safety with regard to the use of medicines through collaboration, shared learning and action.

The group's work to date has included:

- Liaison with relevant State bodies, e.g. HSE, CIS, IMB, with manufacturers, and with the International Medication Safety Network. Network members are participating in two of the projects arising from the Madden Report "*Building a Culture of Patient Safety*": the Medication Safety Forum and the Adverse Event working group.
- Publication of medication safety briefings and alerts: Methotrexate, Vinca alkaloids, transdermal opioid patches, sound-alike look-alike drugs (SALADs), Oxycodone oral solution. They also recently published a collaborative review of *Medication Safety in Irish Hospitals* in the Irish Medical Journal (Nov/Dec 2009).
- Development of guidelines on management of identified High Alert drugs: Potassium concentrate, Insulin.

The above guidelines and publications may be accessed on the website, www.imsn.ie.

An Bord Altranais Board Meetings Open to the Public

An Bord Altranais invites nurses, midwives and members of the public to attend its Board meetings in its premises at **18-20 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.**

Meetings are scheduled for 10.00 hours on the following dates in 2010:

Thursday, 16th September

Thursday, 18th November

People attending will be given observer status and will be present during discussions of agenda items apart from those subject to a legal confidentiality requirement or items which are deemed by the Board to require confidentiality.

All matters dealing with Fitness to Practise will be held in private. There will be an opportunity to make comments or ask the Board questions when the meeting has concluded.

The Board will accommodate approximately 20 persons on a first come first served basis.

Any person interested in attending a meeting should contact Ms. Mary Flynn, Tel: (01) 639 8528 or email: mflynn@nursingboard.ie

An Bord Altranais Responses to External Consultations

An Bord Altranais participates in consultations through written submissions. Since the last edition of the Newsletter, An Bord Altranais responded to a number of consultations that are listed below and available to view on the Board's website, www.nursingboard.ie.

Submission: CORU, Health and Social Care Professionals Council

Subject: Draft Standards for Education and Training, version 6

Date: June 2010

Submission: European Nurse Directors Association (ENDA)

Subject: Code of Ethics (ENDA)

Date: June 2010

Submission: Health Service Executive

Subject: Code of Practice for Reusable Medical Devices

Date: June 2010

Decisions following Fitness to Practise Committee Inquiries

1. Name: Ms. Ellen Teresa Cox, P.I.N. 41438

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT.

Sanction: Pursuant to Section 41 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1985, Ms. Cox was censured in relation to her professional conduct and pursuant to Section 40 (1) of the Act, conditions were attached to the retention of her name in the Register. The decision to attach conditions to the retention of Ms. Cox's name in the Register was confirmed by the High Court on 5th July, 2010.

2. Name: Mr. Wilson Jeffrey Abel, P.I.N. 110823

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT.

Sanction: Pursuant to Section 41 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1985, Mr. Abel was censured in relation to his professional conduct and pursuant to Section 40 (1) of the Act, conditions were attached to the retention of his name in the Register. The decision to attach conditions to the retention of Mr. Abel's name in the Register was confirmed by the High Court on 5th July, 2010.

3. Name: Ms. Ma Kristina Dioso Villanueva, P.I.N. 86702

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Sanction: The Board decided that no sanction be imposed upon Ms. Villanueva.

4. Name: Ms. Charie Abdon Nadales, P.I.N. 108225

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Sanction: Pursuant to Section 41 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1985, Ms. Nadales was censured in relation to her professional conduct.

Details of the allegations proven against each of the individuals listed can be found on www.nursingboard.ie

DECISIONS FOLLOWING AN APPLICATION TO THE HIGH COURT PURSUANT TO SECTION 42 OF THE NURSES ACT, 1985

Section 42 (1) states that:

"Where a nurse is convicted in the State of an offence triable on indictment or is convicted outside the State of an offence consisting of acts or omissions which would constitute an offence triable on indictment if done or made in the State, the Board may decide that the name of such person should be erased from the register."

1. Name: Ms. Dorothy Catherine Walsh-Appleby, (Doreen Appleby) P.I.N. 34022

Pursuant to Section 42 of the Nurses Act, 1985, the name of Ms. Dorothy Catherine Walsh-Appleby was erased from the Register of Nurses. This decision was confirmed by the High Court on 14th June, 2010. Ms. Walsh-Appleby was convicted of offences under the Criminal Justice (Theft and Fraud Offences) Act 2001.

Updates on Standards of Practice and Guidance

REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR POST-REGISTRATION NURSING AND MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

A new set of *Requirements and Standards for Post-Registration Nursing and Midwifery Education Programmes - Incorporating the National Framework of Qualifications* were approved by the Board of An Bord Altranais at its meeting on the 17th June 2010.

These requirements and standards represent a major revision to guidance for education providers in relation to continuing and post-registration education and training. These include major awards that are approved as An Bord Altranais Category 2 programmes. The document provides comprehensive guidance and replaces the previous An Bord Altranais policy in this area.

An Bord Altranais recommends that education providers should familiarise themselves with the contents of this document and be fully compliant with them by September 2011.

A copy of this document is available for download in pdf. format from www.nursingboard.ie

GUIDANCE FOR FIRST TIME REGISTRANTS (NURSES AND MIDWIVES)

Nurses and Midwives who are registering their primary nursing and midwifery qualification with An Bord Altranais will now receive *Guidance for First Time Registrants (Nurses and Midwives) June 2010* as part of their registration confirmation documentation. This guidance document introduces the new registrant to An Bord Altranais and its many regulatory responsibilities and details what is expected of the registered nurse or midwife.

There are 5 main topics addressed in the publication:

- Registration, • Clinical Practice, • Language Competence,
- Responsibilities to Students and Junior Colleagues for Education and Training, • Fitness to Practise

Each of these sections contains specific information to assist the newly qualified nurse or midwife in becoming familiar with various regulations and practice. An abbreviated listing of An Bord Altranais guidance publications and department contact details are included for easy access and referral.

Guidance for First Time Registrants should also be of interest to other nurses and midwives working with new registrants who were previously students or were registered practitioners from overseas. The publication is being distributed to each new registrant from September 2010 and is available for downloading from the publication page on An Bord Altranais website, www.nursingboard.ie.

CURRENT PROJECT:

REVIEW OF THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT FOR EACH NURSE AND MIDWIFE

Background

The *Nurses Act 1985*, Part II, Section 6, Paragraph 1 states that the general concern for the Nursing Board includes the promotion of high standards of professional education and training and professional conduct among nurses. Furthermore, Part VI, Section 51, Paragraph 2 states "It shall be a function of the Board to give guidance to the nursing profession generally on all matters relating to ethical conduct and behaviour".

Following the enactment of the *Nurses Act 1985*, *The Code of*

Professional Conduct for Each Nurse and Midwife was published in 1988. The Code was last revised in 2000 to incorporate the principles of competence, scope of practice and delegation as addressed in the *Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (2000)*.

Nursing and midwifery practices and responsibilities are established through legislation, professional regulation, health care policies, medical technology and other factors. These dynamic variables contribute to the further development and expansion of the professions. In undertaking this review An Bord Altranais wants to ensure that its guidance on professional conduct and ethics reflects these changes and developments.

Objectives of the Review include:

- To complete a systematic and critical review of the literature relating to professional conduct and ethics for nurses and midwives
- To identify any relevant legislation, national policy and professional guidance proposed by and/or undertaken by other key stakeholders regarding professional conduct and ethical behaviour.
- To develop draft guidance/standards for professional conduct for nurses and midwives
- To conduct consultation activities with the public, profession and other stakeholders
- To prepare, publish and disseminate the revised code.

Updates about the review including the consultation activities will be available on An Bord Altranais website, www.nursingboard.ie.

CURRENT PROJECT:

PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR REGISTERED NURSE PRESCRIBERS

Support for Professional Practice

An Bord Altranais have requested the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, University College Dublin (UCD), to carry out a project for the development of further guidance for Registered Nurse Prescribers (RNPs) on the standards and criteria required for safe quality prescribing inclusive of the nursing and midwifery processes of care. This project has come about from one of the recommendations outlined on page xvii of the *National Independent Evaluation of the Nurse/Midwife Prescribing Initiative* (University College Dublin, 2009):

An Bord Altranais in conjunction with health service providers should review Practice Standards with a view to outlining the criteria that should be recorded on patient/service-user case notes and medication administration records following a prescribing consultation by an RNP. These standards, once agreed, should be reflected in prescribing education preparation programmes.

It is envisaged that the guidance will include the standards that should inform the consultation process between the nurse/midwife prescriber and the patient or service user; standards related to the documentation of this process and standards of prescription writing. This guidance will be linked to the *Practice Standards for Nurses and Midwives with Prescriptive Authority* (An Bord Altranais, 2009).

The UCD project team which commenced its work in July are consulting and meeting with RNPs and other stakeholders for the development of these standards.

The team consists of Dr. Jonathan Drennan, Dr. Corina Naughton, Dr. Michelle Butler and Professor Abbey Hyde, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4.

Enquiries about the project can be made by contacting Dr. Jonathan Drennan at (01) 716 6404 or e-mail Jonathan.Drennan@ucd.ie.

