

# Nurse and Midwife Prescribers - How they care for you



# Patient and Service User Information Leaflet

## Nurse and Midwife Prescribers – how they care for you

Since May 2007, nurses and midwives have the option to train to write prescriptions for certain drugs. Up until then, only doctors, dentists or veterinary surgeons (vets) could write a prescription.

This leaflet will help you understand this change.

### 1. What is nurse and midwife prescribing?

A change in the law now allows certain specially qualified registered nurses and midwives to write prescriptions for an agreed range of drugs. The system was introduced in May 2007 and means that these nurses and midwives can provide you with a more complete service than they could before.

### 2. What is a nurse or midwife prescriber called?

A nurse or midwife who can prescribe is called a Registered Nurse Prescriber (RNP).

### 3. Can all nurses and midwives prescribe?

No.

A nurse or midwife can prescribe only if they have:

- passed the college course on nurse and midwife prescribing
- have more than three years nursing or midwifery experience, and
- are registered with An Bord Altranais (the Nursing Board) as a Registered Nurse Prescriber.

### 4. What drugs can the nurse or midwife prescribe?

The nurse or midwife can only prescribe a range of drugs within their area of work. The list of drugs is agreed by the nurse or midwife, their employer and your doctor.

### 5. How will this new system help me?

If your nurse or midwife is allowed to prescribe the medication you require, it will mean that you may get your prescription faster and your treatment may commence sooner.

### 6. How can I help with this?

Always ensure you bring your current medications with you to hospital or clinic visits this will allow the nurse or midwife to assess your needs and explain any changes to your treatment.

### 7. How do I know that a nurse or midwife can prescribe?

The Nursing Board keeps an official record of all RNPs. You can check if a nurse or midwife is registered, by:

- telephoning the Nursing Board call centre on LoCall 1890 20016, or
- logging onto the internet site <http://www.nursingboard.ie> and click the tab 'Check the Register' near the top of the home page and follow the instructions.

### 8. Where can I get more information?

You can talk to nursing and midwifery staff, doctors or pharmacists (chemists) if you would like to know anything more.

You can also get information from the following websites:

- Health Service Executive, <http://www.hse.ie>; and
- An Bord Altranais, the Nursing Board, <http://www.nursingboard.ie>.

**Note:** This information leaflet was produced with assistance, on plain English, from the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA).





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