

AN BORD ALTRANAIS

NEWS

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A Regulatory Nursing Strategy to Complement the National Cancer Screening Service: National Colorectal Screening Programme

An Bord Altranais is pleased to outline its response to a request from the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) regarding the Title, Scope of Practice, Level of Practice, and Educational Preparation of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) who would engage in the National Colorectal Screening Programme of the National Cancer Screening Service (NCSS).

Following consideration of the request by the Board at its meeting in November 2010 it was agreed to develop *A Regulatory Nursing Strategy to Complement the National Cancer Screening Strategy: National Colorectal Screening Programme*. A Working Group comprising key stakeholders representing the DoHC, NCSS, HSE, National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery (NCNM), Nursing Alliance, Higher Education Institutions, ANPs and An Bord Altranais was established. Following meetings of the group coupled with wide consultation the final report was presented to and accepted and agreed by the Board of An Bord Altranais at its meeting in February 2011. The following is a synopsis of the report.

Title: Registered General Nurse (RGN), Registered ANP (RANP) (Gastroenterology Care; Colorectal Screening and Disease Management).

Scope of Practice: The ANP is accountable for her/his own scope of practice. Scope of practice must incorporate the expected range of skills and competencies commensurate with the role. The ANP must maintain competence. Expansion of practice must take place in accordance with An Bord Altranais *Scope of Practice Framework* (2000); service need; and appropriate accreditation body/mechanism.

Governance structures must be in place in the workplace to include policy, protocols, guidelines, audit, clinical review, professional indemnity, ongoing

competence requirements, and referral pathways. Referral pathways must be agreed in advance with other members of the healthcare team.

The definition and core concepts of an ANP are detailed in the NCNM's *Accreditation of Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Advanced Midwife Practitioners*, 2nd edition, November 2008, pp. 5 & 7.

The ANP promotes wellness, offers healthcare interventions and advocates healthy lifestyle choices for patients/clients, their families and carers in collaboration with other healthcare professionals according to agreed scope of practice guidelines. In delivering quality care, the ANP promotes patient/client safety. The ANP role is a holistic role providing complete case management for patients/clients.

The ANP utilises advanced clinical nursing knowledge and critical thinking skills to independently provide optimum patient/client care through caseload management. In the holistic management of a caseload, the concept parameters for an ANP role may include Health Promotion; Health Maintenance; Assessment; Diagnostics; Diagnoses; Therapeutic Interventions; Restoration of Health; Preventative Care; Rehabilitation; and Palliative Care.

The ANP has responsibility and accountability for the management and follow-up of an agreed caseload of patients/clients identified as suitable for colorectal screening and colonoscopy in line with the NCSS

Inside

An Bord Altranais News

	Page
Improving our Communication with You	3
National Conference 2011	5
Update Your Contact Information	2
Code of Professional Conduct: Review Update	7
FEPI Update	5
National Clinical Effectiveness Committee	7
Scope of Practice	6
Decisions following Fitness to Practise Committee Inquiries	5
Policy: Recovery of Costs in Fitness to Practise Cases	3
Retirement of Dr. Eugene Donoghue	5
Appointments	4
Responses to External Consultations	4
Board Meetings Open to the Public	4
Forthcoming Events	4
Publication of Interest	7
Website of interest	3
An Bord Altranais Library	8

Continued overleaf

A Regulatory Nursing Strategy to Complement the National Cancer Screening Service: National Colorectal Screening Programme (continued from page 1)

National Colorectal Screening Programme. The ANP has responsibility for obtaining consent, assessment, examining, diagnostics, requesting of diagnostics, diagnoses, therapeutic interventions and determining the existence of any other pathology/symptom/presentation that she/he finds, as associated with the scope of practice guidelines, when carrying out colorectal screening and colonoscopy. The ANP has responsibility for follow-up and the maintenance of comprehensive documentation and patient/client records.

Within agreed scope of practice guidelines, the ANP in this specialist area of nursing practice may also take care of patients/clients with colorectal disease and therefore activity cannot be limited to cancer screening. The ANP role in colorectal screening may also involve the management of minor conditions and nurse-led clinics for patient follow-up, in addition to performing screening colonoscopies. The ANP has responsibility for the discharge of patients and/or referral to other services/multi-disciplinary team member/s according to agreed criteria and protocols. The ANP will contribute to the evaluation of the quality of the service through on-going research, clinical audit and management of clinical risk.

Due cognisance must be taken of the ANP's meaningful role and function as a member of the multi-disciplinary team. The wider role of the ANP within the concept parameters of the ANP role must be accounted for. The following table is a sample of some of the possible activities of an ANP in regard to the NCSS: National Colorectal Screening Programme. It is not a limiting list nor is it meant as a job description.

Possible Activities of an ANP in regard to the NCSS: National Colorectal Screening Programme

- advanced assessment roles e.g. detailed history taking, examination of abdomen
- advanced knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the bowel and the recognition of disease entities of the lower colon and the bowel
- advanced diagnostic skills e.g. biopsy techniques
- requesting of diagnostics e.g. ionizing radiation, bloods, biopsy techniques
- prescribing knowledge and skills and authority
- administration of procedural (conscious) sedation
- reversal of procedural (conscious) sedation
- advanced resuscitation skills
- emergency skills for perforation or other complications associated with the procedure
- take accountability for the management, referral and follow-up mechanisms associated with pathology results
- proven dexterity and competence in the skill of performing the procedure
- conduct audit and review
- ability to maintain clear documentation and communication skills
- participate in research activities associated with the role
- participate as a member of the multi-disciplinary team.

Level of Practice

The ANP must:

- Be actively registered with An Bord Altranais in the relevant Divisions of the Register i.e. RGN and RANP;
- Have appropriate post-registration clinical nursing experience. Currently this is seven years, of which five to be in the specialist area, which may be completed as a candidate ANP while undertaking relevant study/clinical learning programme;
- Have successfully achieved the competencies and standards of the education and clinical practice requirements of the appropriate cognate area/skill base for advanced practice in line with National and/or International standards.

Educational Preparation

The ANP must have successfully completed an appropriate programme to Master's level or above (minimum Level 9 NQAI) and such a programme to have An Bord Altranais approval or deemed to be 'equivalent' following a full assessment. The educational preparation must also support the ANP to work in the specialist area of nursing patients/clients with colorectal disease including screening and disease management.

The following elements may form part of the educational preparation but it is not meant as a definitive list.

Elements that May Form Part of the Educational Preparation

Common Elements

- Advanced Assessment, Diagnoses and Therapeutic Intervention
- Professional and Clinical Leadership
- Advanced Patho-Physiology
- Advanced Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapeutics
- Research
- Other elements as deemed necessary by the HEI to support the philosophy and approaches underpinning an ANP programme

Specific Element

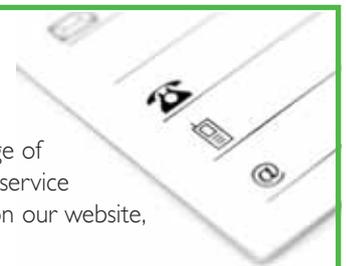
- Specific element to be decided as per each cognate area/skill base:
- Practice Elements
 - Clinical Practicums
 - Case Management.

Please refer to An Bord Altranais website for the full report, www.nursingboard.ie

Update Your Contact Information

Do we have your correct address, email address and phone number on file?

If your contact information has changed from that provided by you to An Bord Altranais please inform us of your new details. To register your change of postal address, email address or telephone number use the secure online service **Update Your Contact Information** under the Online Services area on our website, www.nursingboard.ie



Improving our Communication with You

Communication with registered nurses and midwives is one of the Board's main strategic initiatives for 2011. As you know we conducted a survey in 2010 asking you for your views on the current newsletter. Your feedback is much appreciated and has been utilised towards our new strategy. The newly designed newsletter will be published biannually under the new title *Regulation Matters*. The inaugural edition will be published in Autumn 2011.

As an additional means of communicating with you, An Bord Altranais is delighted to announce plans for the introduction of an electronic news update (eZine) later in the year. This new way of communicating with you will provide you with updates of the most recent news from An Bord Altranais - for example, a brief synopsis of board decisions, practice alerts, committee news, or other key information. Through the eZine, the Board will be able to share its latest news with you as it happens.



To subscribe free of charge to the eZine will be as easy as:

- 1** Go to eZine Sign-up on the home page of our website, www.nursingboard.ie
- 2** Provide us with your PIN number and email address
- 3** Click on Subscribe. Each eZine will be then be delivered directly to your inbox.

You can unsubscribe from the ezine at any point you chose by clicking Unsubscribe in the eZine itself.

An Bord Altranais Policy - Recovery of Costs in Fitness to Practise Cases

An Bord Altranais has never sought to recover costs in relation to Fitness to Practise Inquiries in circumstances where a nurse/midwife has been found guilty of professional misconduct and/or unfit to practice by reason of physical or mental disability. It is a core function of An Bord Altranais to hold such Inquiries. In addition, a nurse/midwife who is the subject of such an Inquiry does not have any choice in the matter except insofar as he/she can choose to attend or not attend the Inquiry; be represented by a union representative; and/or be represented by a solicitor/barrister. The Inquiry will be held whether or not the nurse/midwife participates. A similar approach is taken in relation to applications to the High Court pursuant to Section 44 and Section 42 of the Nurses Act, 1985. This approach differs from that taken by other regulatory authorities who always seek to recover their costs.

It is the policy of An Bord Altranais to seek its costs in relation to any Judicial Review or High Court/Supreme Court Appeal instigated by a nurse/midwife, where the nurse/midwife is unsuccessful in the case. It is the choice of the nurse/midwife to instigate such actions in Court. It is the decision of the presiding judge as to what Order, if any, is made in relation to costs. In almost all cases, costs 'follow the event' i.e. the side that is successful gets an award for their costs against the other side in the case. In such cases where a nurse/midwife is unsuccessful, An Bord Altranais will take the necessary steps to recover costs from the nurse/midwife in question.

Any queries in relation to this issue should be directed to Ursula Byrne, Acting Director of Regulation, at ubyrne@nursingboard.ie

Website of Interest



HEALTHUPDATE

www.healthupdate.gov.ie

The Press and Communications Office of the Department of Health and Children launched a new web area, *Healthupdate*, in October 2010. It provides information on health topics under four categories:

News Room: This can include such items as press releases, press briefings, audio recordings and videos.

Nationwide: This category highlights developments and health stories from around the country including topics of current interest.

On the Record: This provides a summary of some of the weekly health related questions/statements in the Oireachtas along with extracts of Oireachtas transcripts each with a link to the full transcript.

Current Topics: This area contains information on issues currently in the news.

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: Health Information and Quality Authority

Subject: National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare

Date: November 2010

Submission: Department of Health and Children

Subject: Review of Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 236 of 2009) and (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 36 of 2010)

Date: January 2011

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.**

The meetings are scheduled for 10.00 hours on the following dates in 2011:

Thursday, 14th April
Thursday, 16th June
Thursday, 15th September
Thursday, 17th 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 the meeting should contact Ms. Mary Flynn, Tel: (01) 639 8528 or email: mflynn@nursingboard.ie

Forthcoming Events

Milford Care Centre, Limerick

Contact: Geraldine Aherne
Tel: 061 – 485 841
Email: g.aherne@milfordcarecentre.ie

European Certificate in Essential Palliative Care

Date: Monday, 28th March 2011

IV Study Day

Dates: Tuesday, 5th April 2011, Tuesday, 18th October 2011

Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital, Adelaide Road, Dublin 2

Contact: Anne-Marie Sullivan
Email: anne-marie.sullivan@rveeh.ie

Ophthalmic Nursing Conference

Date: Saturday, 16th April 2011

Education and Research Centre, Our Lady's Hospice Limited, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W

Tel: 01 – 406 8810/8806
Email: education@olh.ie
Website: www.olh.ie

18th Annual International Moving Points in Palliative Care Conference: Diverse Needs at End of Life: Traditions, Transitions and Transformations

Dates: Wednesday & Thursday, 6th & 7th April 2011

Managing Pain Using a Palliative Care Approach for Registered Nurses (incorporating syringe driver workshop)

Date: Tuesday, 12th April 2011

Listening to the Still Small Voice: The Role of Palliative Care Nurses in addressing Psychosocial Needs of Patients and Families

Date: Wednesday, 8th June 2011

End of Life Communications & Care After Death

Date: Wednesday, 15th June 2011

Appointments

Acting Chief Executive Officer



The Board of An Bord Altranais has appointed **Ms. Deirdre Hogan**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, as Acting Chief Executive Officer until the

appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer.

Director of Corporate Services



An Bord Altranais is pleased to announce the appointment of **Mr. Peter Dennehy** as Director of Corporate Services. A native of Tralee, Co. Kerry; a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and a Fellow of

Engineers Ireland, Mr. Dennehy has over 30 years public and private sector service at home and abroad. Best wishes are extended to him in his new post.

New Members Appointed to the Board

The Minister for Health and Children, Ms. Mary Harney, T.D., appointed **Dr. Eamon Breathnach**, Consultant Radiologist, Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin, as Medical Council representative and **Mr. Derek Greene**, Chief Executive, National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, as a Voluntary Hospital representative to the Board of An Bord Altranais in October 2010. The Tanaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Ms. Mary Coughlan, T.D., appointed **Mr. Chris Fitzgerald**, Workforce Planning, Agency Governance and Clinical Indemnity Unit, Department of Health and Children (DoHC), as a DoHC representative to the Board in February 2011.

Decisions following **Fitness to Practise** Committee Inquiries

1. Mr. Stuart William Cummings, P.I.N. 106753

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT.

Sanction: Pursuant to Section 39 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1985, Mr. Cummings's name was erased from the Register. The decision to erase Mr. Cummings's name from the Register was confirmed by the High Court on 6th December, 2010.

2. Ms. Ann Teresa Connolly (Lipsitt), P.I.N. 42164

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Sanction: Pursuant to Section 39 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1985, Ms. Connolly's (Lipsitt) name was erased from the Register. The decision to erase Ms. Connolly's (Lipsitt) name from the Register was confirmed by the High Court on 6th December, 2010.

3. Ms. Emelina Makinano Navale, P.I.N. 83615

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

Sanction: Pursuant to Section 39 (1) of the Nurses Act, 1985, Ms. Navale's name was erased from the Register. The decision to erase Ms. Navale's name from the Register was confirmed by the High Court on 6th December, 2010.

4. Ms. Mary Catherine Lonergan, P.I.N. 28944

FINDING OF THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE:
PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

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

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

FEPI Update

The President of An Bord Altranais and FEPI Mrs. Anne Carrigy accompanied by Dr. Anne-Marie Ryan attended the FEPI General Assembly and Conference held on 26th and 27th January 2011 in Zagreb, Croatia. The agendas of the meetings primarily explored current developments within the European Union and the current review of Directive 2005/36/EC being undertaken by the Internal Market and Services Directorate General (**DG MARKT**). An Bord Altranais made a submission to Phase I of the evaluation review in August 2010. Submission to Phase II of the review to DG MARKT made in March 2011 was the outcome of consultation by An Bord Altranais and invited stakeholders, with FEPI as the European Council of Nurse Regulators and with Sectoral professions in Ireland namely the Medical Council of Ireland, the Dental Council, the Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland, the Pharmaceutical Society, the Veterinary Council of Ireland and the Departments of Health and Children and Education and Skills.

In anticipation of the next phase An Bord Altranais are proactively engaging in the processes to amend the Directive to reflect scientific and technical progress in the professions of nursing and midwifery since the adoption of the Directive in 1977 and 1980 respectively. Stakeholders will be invited to participate. An Bord Altranais is committed to ensuring that the regulation of the professions reflects the patient safety agenda, service need and mobility of competent professionals across Europe.

Retirement of Dr. Eugene Donoghue



L to r: Ms. Ursula Byrne, Ms. Deirdre Hogan, Dr. Eugene Donoghue and Dr. Anne-Marie Ryan

In December 2010 Dr. Eugene Donoghue retired as Chief Executive Officer of An Bord Altranais. During his 22 years with the Board he oversaw many changes in nursing and midwifery. These included supporting the progress of nurse education from the apprentice model of training in hospitals to the higher education sector; the development of the profession since the publication of the *Report of the Commission on Nursing* (1998), the establishment of the Nursing Careers Centre and the acquisition and movement to the Board's new premises in Blackrock from Fitzwilliam Square.

At a celebration to mark his retirement Dr. Donoghue was joined by representatives from many areas including the Department of Health and Children, the Health Service Executive, Higher Education Institutions, unions, the legal profession, past and present Board members, members of staff and his family. Mrs. Anne Carrigy, President of An Bord Altranais, in her tribute to Dr. Donoghue said, "We thank you for your commitment to the profession, for your competent management of the Board business on our behalf. We know we could always trust your judgement in the knowledge that your sole interest as CEO was to faithfully and honestly look after the affairs of the Board and to ensure that the public interest was protected."

Best wishes are extended to Dr. Donoghue for a long and happy retirement.

AN BORD ALTRANAIS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2011

**Strengthening Patient
Protection and Professional
Integrity by Maintaining
Professional Competence**

Tuesday, 17th May 2011

Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire

The Conference is free of charge to all Nurses
and Midwives.

**Registration will be available online only at
www.nursingboard.ie
from Monday, 28th March 2011.**



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 am employed as a Clinical Nurse Manager 1 (CNM1) in a private hospital that provides general medical and maternity services. I have worked on a medical unit for the past number of years. The Assistant Director of Nursing has approached me requesting that I take on the role of weekend supervisor for the entire hospital. I am really concerned that I am not prepared or competent for this position especially as I am not a midwife and weekend coverage involves the maternity units. If I don't think this supervisory role is within my scope of practice can I refuse my employer?

RESPONSE:

The concept of the scope of nursing practice is not only about current roles (i.e. you as CNM1) but also examining what possibilities exist for developing and expanding your own practice and competencies to meet the needs of the patient.

An expansion of a nurse/midwife scope of practice involves the registrant thinking about the competencies, experiences and knowledge they possess, how these fit with a change of role and responsibilities and what new competencies and skills are required. This personal reflection needs to take place whether it involves learning a new skill such as IV cannulation or taking up a new role such as transitioning from a CNM1 position to that of a weekend nursing supervisor. As a registered nurse you are professionally accountable for decisions you have made in practice. By saying it is not within my scope of practice to take on this role you must be prepared to make explicit the rationale for this decision. Make sure you have adequate information to inform your decision. Learn about the supervisor role including its specific responsibilities. Speak with the Assistant Director and/or Director of Nursing about your concerns. The following

questions may serve as a guide to explore these concerns:

- Are there opportunities for you to shadow/work with another weekend supervisor prior to starting in this role?
- What supports or additional training might be required for you in taking on this new position?
- What does your period of orientation for this role involve?
- What and who are the resources available to you on weekends? For example the availability of the Nursing Director or senior staff for maternity issues.

The *Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework* (An Bord Altranais, April 2000) stresses the need for supports to be in place for nurses and midwives to practise competently and to realise their potential.

"Nursing and midwifery managers need to ensure that there are systems in place that will provide support for nurses and midwives in determining and expanding their scope of practice." (p.8)

Consider your own continuing professional development for this opportunity to develop your career pathway in nursing management. Access to formal education programmes, e-learning modules, networking with other managers and mentorship are all examples of activities that may contribute to your personal development in this area of nursing practice.

QUESTION:

I work as a Registered Nurse Intellectual Disability (RNID) in a residential community setting for intellectually disabled clients. I was recently asked by the manager of the services (who is not a nurse) to draft a fire evacuation plan for a number of the residential homes. I don't believe I am the most appropriate staff member to do this. I have no experience in this area of health and safety. My responsibilities did not

involve development of policies for health and safety. I did previously attend a one day course on general aspects of health and safety a few years back. I think the responsibility is outside of my scope of practice. What advice can An Bord Altranais give me on this?

RESPONSE:

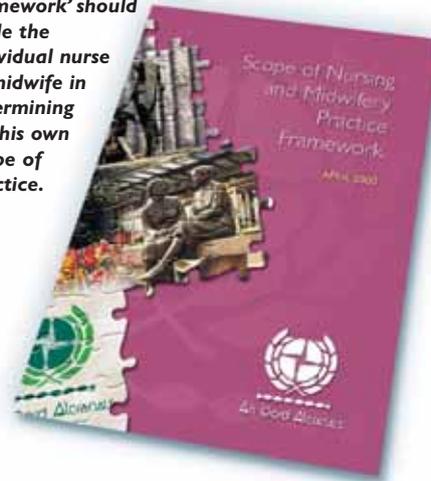
The Nurse/Midwife Scope of Practice Decision-Making Framework (An Bord Altranais, April 2000) and associated principles can be used as a tool in helping you to determine if the drafting fire evacuation plans for the residential homes – (your practice environment) is within your scope of nursing practice. Firstly, you should consider any relevant legislation or local guidelines for this. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005 provides detailed information about the legal responsibilities of both the employer and employee regarding health and safety issues in the workplace. Section 11 of the Act is specific to the employer's responsibilities in relation to emergency plans and exits from an area in emergency situations. The Act can be accessed at <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2005/en/act/pub/0010/print.html>.

Another part of the framework asks whether the practice, i.e. the development of evacuation plans, maintains the best interests of the patients/clients and promotes and maintains best quality health services for the population. Nurses have a responsibility to ensure the physical safety of patients and clients in their care and this extends to the residential home setting. This activity does reflect the professional values of nursing.

Do you have the competence to undertake the drafting of evacuation plans? Development for evacuation plans for emergency situations requires a team effort. This activity is best directed by the employer as it is the organisation's legal obligation to have these plans in place as part of its risk assessment and safety statements for the

workplace. Nursing staff and other employees all have a role to play in maintaining and promoting safety in the workplace. Your knowledge of the physical layout/environment of the homes and the residents/clients' levels of needs including physical assistance can greatly contribute to the development of fire evacuation plans. It is advised that you discuss your concerns with your manager about being assigned responsibility for the plan and what aspects of the development of the plan you can participate in. The topic of fires is addressed by the Health and Safety Authority of Ireland; see www.hsa.ie/eng/Topics/Fire which may be useful to you in your discussions.

The 'Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework' should guide the individual nurse or midwife in determining her/his own scope of practice.



National Clinical Effectiveness Committee

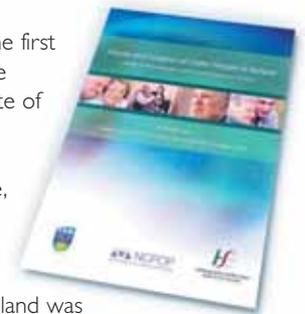
Dr. Anne-Marie Ryan was appointed by the Minister for Health and Children, Ms Mary Harney T.D., as the nursing representative nominee for the Regulatory Forum, to the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee of the Department of Health and Children, chaired by Professor Hilary Humphries.

The Committee was set up to provide leadership on clinical effectiveness across the Irish health system and to promote patient safety and healthcare quality in line with recommendations of the report of the Commission on Patient Safety and Quality Assurance. The Committee is currently exploring methodologies for developing and adapting health guidelines and audit for the Irish health system with the purpose of assisting practitioners to make clinical decisions informed by the best available evidence while increasing clinical efficiency and improving health care processes, outcomes and costs. Dissemination and implementation of guidelines is one of the challenges the Committee will explore.

Publication of interest to Nurses

Abuse and Neglect of Older People in Ireland: Report on the National Study of Elder Abuse and Neglect, November 2010

This report, the first concerning the prevalence, rate of abuse and neglect, and types of abuse, experienced by older people living at home in Ireland was published by the National Centre for the Protection of Older People (NCPOP), School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, University College Dublin. The findings of the study undertaken by the NCPOP with support and funding from the Health Service Executive showed that more than 10,000 people aged over 65 years were mistreated in the previous 12 months.



Financial abuse was the most frequent type of abuse reported, followed by psychosocial abuse, physical abuse and neglect. Sexual abuse was the least common type of reported abuse. The findings of the study were announced by Ms. Aine Brady, T.D. and Minister for Older People and Health Promotion, who said, "Until now we could only assume that the prevalence of elder abuse was not unlike that in other developed countries. But this Report gives us more precise data to work with." The Minister went on to say that abuse in any form is totally unacceptable and she urged any person who had concerns in this regard to report the matter to a HSE social worker, a public health nurse, a general practitioner, a member of the Garda Síochána, or in the case of financial abuse to a solicitor or a bank official.

The full report may be downloaded from the NCPOP website:

<http://www.ncpop.ie/userfiles/file/Final%20Report%20Doc.pdf>

Code of Professional Conduct for Each Nurse and Midwife - Review Update

The Subgroup of An Bord Altranais Ethics Committee is directing the current Review of *The Code of Professional Conduct for Each Nurse and Midwife* (April, 2000). The subgroup has met regularly during the past year to progress its work. The most recent meeting was on the 2nd February 2011. Activities to date include a review of the literature of international codes of conduct and ethical codes for health care professionals involving a comparative analysis of nursing and midwifery codes. A modified Delphi study with the ethics lecturers within the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery of the 14 Higher Education Institutions was undertaken to gather

information about the professional values, ethical theories and educational approaches used in the pre and post registration education programmes. Following on from these activities and others a draft code is being prepared. Broad consultation will take place with the public and the profession in the coming months about the draft code. Details of the consultation exercises will be posted on www.nursingboard.ie and will be shared with all stakeholders.

For further information about this project contact Kathleen Walsh, Professional Officer, Standards of Practice and Guidance, at kwalsh@nursingboard.ie.

