

NATIONAL COUNCIL for the
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT of
NURSING & MIDWIFERY

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5



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"the COUNCIL exists to promote AND deVELOP the PROFESSIONAL ROle of NURSES AND MIDWIVES IN ORDER to ENSURE the deLIVERY of QUALITY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY care to patients/CLients IN a CHANGING HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT."



National Council for the
Professional Development
of Nursing and Midwifery

An Chomhairle Náisiúnta d'Fhorbairt
Chairmiúil an Atráinís agus
an Chindimheachais

NATIONAL COUNCIL members

Liam Dunbar	Executive Chairperson	
Valerie Small	General Nursing	Emergency Nurse Practitioner, St James' Hospital, Dublin
Maura Nash	Mental Handicap Nursing	Chief Executive, COPE Foundation, Cork
Pearse Finegan	Psychiatric Nursing	Chief Nursing Officer, St Mary's Hospital, Castlebar
Antoinette Doocey	Public Health Nursing	Regional Director of Services to Older People, Community Services Programme, NEHB
Aveen Murray	Sick Children's Nursing	Assistant Director of Nursing, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin
Patrick Hume	Care of the Elderly	Area Co-ordinator, Services for Older People, NWHB, Letterkenny
Anne Marie Moran	Nurse Tutor	Course Co-ordinator, School of Nursing Studies, GMIT, Castlebar
Kathryn Mc Quillan	Midwifery	Manager, Delivery Ward, NMH, Dublin
Jim Hough	An Bord Altranais	Principal Tutor (retired), SHB, Waterford
Eileen Kelly	An Bord Altranais	Co-ordinator of In-Service and Continuing Education, CUH, Cork
To be confirmed	Senior Nurse Manager	
Marie Keane	Health Services Employers Agency	Director of Nursing, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin
Hazel Daniels	Health Services Employers Agency	Director of Nursing, Waterford Regional Hospital
Mary Mc Carthy	Dept of Health and Children	Chief Nursing Officer, Dept of Health and Children, Dublin
Teresa Cody	Dept of Health and Children	Assistant Principal Officer, Nursing Policy Division, Dept of Health and Children, Dublin
Michael Boland	Medical Practitioner	Director, Postgraduate Resource Centre, Irish College of General Practitioners, Dublin
Pearl Treacy	Third Level Institutions (NUI university)	Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCD
Cecily Begley	Third Level Institutions (non-NUI university)	Director, School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, TCD
Gerry McTaggart	Third Level Institutions (IT/RTC sector)	Project Manager, Pre-Registration Nursing Education Programmes, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal Regions

One of the central roles of the National Council is to work closely with the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Units within each of the Health Boards to plan and make provision for additional funding for continuing education. This funding is over and above the normal funding that each Health Board has available to it for this purpose. It is intended to be used to address areas of continuing education that might not normally be funded. Thus, for example, one of the most important functions of this funding would be to ensure that greater access to post-registration training and education is provided to nurses and midwives outside of the greater population areas.

This issue of the newsletter is devoted to a large extent to reporting on the activities of the National Council over the past year in this area. It gives me great pleasure to be able to report on the many courses, projects and programmes that have been funded by the National Council throughout the country. These courses are for the benefit of all nurses and midwives – not just for specialists and advanced practitioners. A large number of nurses and midwives will benefit from these courses in every single branch of the profession.

A detailed account of the initiatives that have been funded is published elsewhere in this newsletter. I would like just to point out a few of the most salient features of the work that has been done in this area.

One of the most interesting features is the number of programmes that will be run across a number of health boards. Thus, for example, a three year project entitled *Regional Practice Development Project for Gerontological Nursing* is being run simultaneously in the South Eastern Health Board, the North Western Health Board, the Southern Health Board and the Midland Health Board.

The first outreach programme in gerontological nursing is being established. The *Post-Graduate Higher Diploma in Gerontological Nursing* is available from St. James's Hospital and Trinity College Dublin and follows on the successful Master's Degree Programme in Gerontological Nursing that has been available there for a number of years.

A number of the initiatives include a welcome cross-discipline inclusiveness. Thus, for example, a programme entitled

Understanding Anxiety and Managing it without Drugs is aimed at psychiatric, public health, and general practice nurses and midwives. Similarly, an initiative in the South Eastern Health Board entitled *Managing the Change Process for the Integration of Carlow-Kilkenny Mental Health Services* is a nine-month programme aimed at psychiatric nurses, general practice nurses and midwives in the area.

We are also beginning to see the emergence of programmes and initiatives that take account of the opportunities presented by the Internet. In the Eastern Regional Health Authority a web-based nursing information and continuing education resource project is being developed as a means of sharing information across the web for a number of participating hospitals.

The emergence of this rich range of programmes and initiatives is due to the creativity of the professionals involved who came up with the ideas and proposed them for funding. The criteria for funding are clearly spelled out in the documentation of the National Council. We look forward to developing this aspect of our work in close cooperation with our colleagues in the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Units, to whom any suggestions for courses, projects or programmes should be addressed.

Finally I am pleased to announce the approval by the National Council of the site preparation and job description for Ireland's first Advanced Nurse Practitioner in the Emergency Department at St. James's Hospital, Dublin. Congratulations to all those involved in the development of this pioneering post.

Yvonne O'Shea
Chief Executive Officer

CONTINUING education PROGRAMMES allocated FUNDING IN 2001

The National Council in 2001 was delighted to fund a number of continuing education programmes for nurses and midwives. The programmes were funded in response to submissions received through the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Units and met the criteria for funding by the National Council (February 2001). The following table provides a brief description of the programmes awarded funding. Further details on these programmes are available on the National Council website.

Eastern Regional Health Authority

Degree of Master of Medical Science (Nursing)

This proposal sought funding for curriculum development for the advanced nursing practice module within the clinical strand of the Degree of Master of Medical Science (Nursing) at UCD.

HONESCA: An Assessment Scale for Rating Mental Health Needs of Children and Adolescents

This is a one-day conference intended to promote an understanding of "HONESCA", an assessment tool for assessing the mental health needs of children and adolescents.

Introduction to Clinical Audit

The purpose of this programme is to introduce clinical audit within the mental health services. To facilitate this, QUASAR, a software package for continuous quality improvement (CQI), will be utilised.

Leading an Empowered Organisation

This two-day programme will provide participants with an introduction to empowerment, management and leadership techniques.

Management Development Programme

This programme aims to address the key competencies that a front line manager needs to develop. The programme is aimed at management staff including CNM Is, CNM IIs, CNM IIIs and senior staff nurses.

Management for CNM IIs

This programme is to be provided for CNM IIs and is focused on facilitating development of management skills.

Management for Staff Nurses

This programme is to be provided for staff nurses and is focused on facilitating development of clinical management skills.

Web-Based Nursing Information and Continuing Education Resource

This two-year programme is designed to develop a web-based nursing information and educational resource.

Midland Health Board

Breast and Cervical Screening for Healthcare Professionals

The objective of this programme is to develop practice nurses' skills to be competent to deliver breast and cervical screening in their practice settings.

Caring for Patients with Dementia

This one-day conference will look at the meaning of 'dementia,' the services available and explore options beyond the medical model, namely a holistic, psychosocial approach to care.

Change Management in the Workplace

This programme will address the competencies required by individuals who will be facilitators of change in the workplace.

Identification, Prevention and Management of Post-Natal Depression: Training for Trainers

This is a two-day research-based training package for trainers working with pre- and post-natal women.

Initiation Programme for Health Service Managers (CNM I)

This programme focuses on the nurse management competencies published by the Office for Health Management. The programme will provide support to CNM I grades to develop skills to make the transition from a predominantly clinical role to a managerial role.

Project to Support Development and Clinical Effectiveness in Community Mental Health Nursing

The MHB have pursued a policy of an integrated and comprehensive community-based mental health service. This project proposes that ten psychiatric nurses pursue an education programme to prepare them to provide comprehensive mental health care including the introduction of nurse-led clinics and the development of CNS posts. This is a partnership project with the SEHB.

Regional Practice Development Project for Gerontological Nursing

The three-year programme aims to regionally develop and enhance gerontological nursing practice within a planned framework which is relevant to service needs. The facilitator will be the driver for practice development. The role will seek to enhance service provision in line with consumer needs and be a mechanism of inter-relationship between the user of the service and the health service providers.

Service Planning for Nurse Managers

Nurse managers with their broad range of skills need to become increasingly involved in the service planning process. The programme will identify the background to health service planning at national, health board and local function/institution level. A number of service planning frameworks will be presented.

Mid Western Health Board

Keeping Ahead of the National Agenda

This one-day conference was provided to foster a greater understanding of service planning, empowerment, quality, accreditation and cultural issues in nursing and to foster a network of nursing information/discussion in the Clare Health Services.

North Eastern Health Board

Breast and Cervical Screening for Health Professionals

The objective of this programme is to develop practice nurses' skills to be competent to deliver breast and cervical screening in their practice settings.

Exploring Developments and Empowering the Nurse Manager of the Future - Irish Nurse Management Network National Conference

This conference provided a forum for dissemination of information on issues relevant to middle nurse managers/assistant director grades.

Initiation Programme for Health Service Managers (CNM I)

This programme focuses on the nurse management competencies published by the Office for Health Management. The programme will provide support to CNM I grades to develop skills to make the transition from a predominantly clinical role to a managerial role.

Project to Develop Graduate/Higher Diploma Specialist Nursing/Midwifery Programme

The health service providers in the NEHB intend to develop in conjunction with Dundalk Institute of Technology and the Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) an appropriate framework for postgraduate level modules. This framework will be flexible enough to cater for nurses from all disciplines and will specify how nurses can achieve graduate/higher diploma level qualification.



North Western Health Board

Behaviours that Challenge

This one-day seminar on challenging behaviour aims to provide a review of clients with autism and challenging behaviour, case studies involving clients with challenging behaviour and approaches to working with challenging behaviour.

Care of Patients Following Rape and Sexual Assault

This two-day multidisciplinary conference was held on 15 and 16 October 2001 and provided a comprehensive overview of the immediate reception and care, and subsequent medical-legal examination of the adult or child presenting as a result of rape/sexual assault.

Facilitator to Develop the Curriculum for a Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies (Community Nursing)

The NWHB intends to commence the Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies (Community Nursing) on a modular basis open to all disciplines of nursing. It is proposed to put a facilitator in place for two years to develop the curriculum, prepare the sites, support the students and assist at validation of the programme.

Family Planning and Reproductive Sexual Health

This is a stand-alone module of the Diploma in Midwifery from Queens University, Belfast, which provides both the theory and practical experience of family planning and reproductive sexual health. It is envisaged that a comprehensive Well Woman/Man and Family Planning service will be made available by practice nurses in all GP surgeries as an outcome of this module.

Patient-Centred Care Project

This one-year programme is a personal and professional development programme. The overall aim of the programme is to introduce sustainable patient-centred care in an acute setting.

Regional Practice Development Project of Gerontological Nursing

The three-year programme aims to regionally develop and enhance gerontological nursing practice within a planned framework which is relevant to service needs. The facilitator will be the driver for practice development. The role will seek to enhance service provision in line with consumer needs and be a mechanism of inter-relationship between the user of the service and the health service providers.

South Eastern Health Board

Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics

This programme is provided to ensure that midwives can effectively and efficiently respond to obstetric emergencies in a well planned and co-ordinated manner.

Caring for Patients with Dementia

This one-day conference will look at the meaning of 'dementia,' the services available and explore options beyond the medical model, namely a holistic, psychosocial approach to care.

Clinical Audit Initiative in Mental Health Nursing

This programme aims to address the training needs of the staff involved with the SEHB Mental Health Services Quality Assurance Strategy, particularly in regard to quality assurance and clinical audit. It is proposed to utilise the QUASAR audit system.

Clinical Supervision Project: Public Health Nursing

The programme is a project to examine a model of clinical supervision appropriate for public health nursing.

Identification, Prevention and Management of Post-Natal Depression: Training for Trainers

The programme aims to promote a greater understanding of post-natal depression and establish integrated links to provide the care needed and early detection.

Managing the Change Process for the Integration of Carlow/Kilkenny Mental Health Services

This nine-month programme aims to manage the change process for the integration of the Carlow/Kilkenny mental health services and the establishment of a department of acute psychiatry at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny.

Midwifery Management Development Programme

This programme will enable midwifery managers to develop and maintain management competencies to effectively manage the maternity services.

Project to Support Development and Clinical Effectiveness in Community Mental Health Nursing

The SEHB has pursued an integrated and comprehensive community-based mental health service. This project proposes that twenty-five psychiatric nurses pursue an education programme to prepare them to provide comprehensive mental health care including the introduction of nurse-led clinics and the development of CNS posts. This is a partnership project with the MHB.

Project to Support and Enhance CNS/CMS in Professional Role

The aim of this two-year project is to evaluate and clarify the role of the CNS/CMS. The core concepts of the specialist as defined by the National Council will be used as a framework for evaluation and on-going development.

Project to Support the Establishment of a Post-graduate Diploma in Gerontological Nursing

The SEHB intends to commence the Post-graduate Diploma in Gerontological Nursing as an outreach programme with Trinity College and St. James's Hospital, Dublin. This programme aims to support a facilitator to aid site preparation and the development of a similar Post-graduate Diploma in Gerontological Nursing in conjunction with Waterford Institute of Technology.

Regional Practice Development Project for Gerontological Nursing

This three-year programme aims to regionally develop and enhance gerontological nursing practice within a planned framework which is relevant to service needs. The facilitator will be the driver for practice development. The role will seek to enhance service provision in line with consumer needs and be a mechanism of inter-relationship between the user of the service and the health service providers.

Southern Health Board

Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics

This programme is provided to ensure that midwives can effectively and efficiently respond to obstetric emergencies in well planned co-ordinated manner.

Caring for Patients with Dementia

A one-day conference, which will look at the meaning of 'dementia,' the services available and explore options beyond the medical model, namely a holistic, psychosocial approach to care.

Certificate in Behaviour Therapy for Nurses

This one-year programme addresses within a health care context, behavioural and cognitive aspects of assessment, intervention and rehabilitation for patients with psychiatric illness or a learning disability.

Developing Change Champions in the Workplace

This programme will address the competencies required by individuals who will be facilitators and champions of change in their own workplace.

Effective Brief Therapy for Depression

This one-day programme aims to support practitioners to review the cognitive, behavioural and solution focused approaches for depression.

Facilitator to Establish a Module in Emergency Advanced Practice as Part of a Master's Degree Programme or as a Stand-Alone Module

The SHB intends to commence a Master's degree programme for ANPs in the Department of Nursing Studies at UCC. Funding is provided for a facilitator to develop a curriculum and to prepare the clinical site for an ANP module in emergency nursing.

Higher Diploma in General Practice Nursing

This programme is designed to provide practice nurses with the essential theoretical, practical, social, cultural, ethical and research knowledge and skills to practice within multidisciplinary teams in the primary care setting, and as part of an integrated community nursing service. The funding provided for this two-year programme is to provide seed funding for a course co-ordinator involved in curriculum development and site preparation.

How to Do Effective Counselling

This one-day programme is designed to give practitioners an overview of core counselling skills in order to make them more effective in their work.

Identification, Prevention and Management of Post-Natal Depression: Training for Trainers

A two-day research based-training package for trainers working with pre- and post-natal women. Post-natal depression affects between 10 and 15% of women in the first post-natal year. Prevention and early detection of women at risk is vital for positive health outcomes.

Initiation Programme for Health Service Managers (CNMI)

This programme focuses on the nurse management competencies published by the Office for Health Management. The programme will provide support to CNM 1 grades to develop skills to make the transition from a predominantly clinical role to a managerial role.

Link Nurses' Continence Promotion Programme

This programme is designed to address the competencies required by the participants to initiate, develop, manage and change practices towards a continence promotion culture. The focus will be on the prevention, rehabilitative or curative approach.

Parenthood Facilitators Course

This programme will enable participants to facilitate antenatal and parenthood programmes for clients. Emphasis will be placed on a consumer-friendly and flexible approach that meets the needs of client and partner.

Promotion of Evidence Based Practice and Research Awareness

The overall aim of this programme is to prepare nurses and midwives to improve their research awareness and ability to access information, and to become more independent learners.

Regional Practice Development Project for Gerontological Nursing

This three-year programme aims to regionally develop and enhance gerontological nursing practice within a planned framework which is relevant to service needs. The facilitator will be the driver for practice development. The role will seek to enhance service provision in line with consumer needs and be a mechanism of inter-relationship between the user of the service and the health service providers.

Service Planning for Nurse Managers

This programme will identify the background to health service planning at national, health board and local function/institution level. A number of service planning frameworks will be presented.

Teaching, Learning and Assessing in Clinical Practice for RGNs and RMs

This programme offers nurses and midwives the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes to facilitate the teaching-learning process and to assess learning effectively in the clinical area.

Understanding and Stopping Addictive Behaviour

This one-day programme presents an essential overview of a wide variety of addictive behaviours, what they have in common and describes in detail the most successful ways of breaking patterns of addiction rapidly with psychotherapy.

Understanding Anxiety and Managing It Without Drugs

This one-day programme aims to provide practitioners with the knowledge and skills to reduce anxiety.

Western Health Board

Dealing with Challenging Behaviours in Mental Health

This project focuses on bringing together theory and practice in order to help practitioners make sense of behaviours and the associated psychopathology of mentally disordered patients/clients, so that better care and treatment programmes can be delivered.

Joint INO/RCN Clinical Leadership Programme

This programme aims to assist PHNs to develop patient-centred leadership strategies. The programme involves developing a personal development plan, team building strategies and leadership skills.

Project for Curriculum Development for the Higher Diploma in Mental Health Nursing

This proposal is to provide seed funding to fund a facilitator for three months for curriculum development to review and develop the current five-week programme in mental health nursing at NUIG in order that it can become accredited as three modules of a Higher Diploma in Mental Health Nursing.

Project for Curriculum Development for the Higher Diploma in Public Health Nursing

This proposal is to provide seed funding to fund a facilitator for three months for curriculum development for the Higher Diploma in Public Health Nursing at NUIG. The programme will be developed in a modular format with a view to extending its availability to community nurses, practice nurses and learning disability nurses.

Regional Practice Development Project

The programme aims to regionally develop and enhance nursing practice within a planned framework which is relevant to service needs. This is a two-year project with appointed facilitators to drive, negotiate, consult, create, plan, and evaluate a practice development programme to regionally enhance and develop nursing.

CRITERIA AND PROCESSES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Responsibility for Planning and Provision of Continuing Education

The role of the National Council in relation to continuing education is to support developments in continuing education by health boards and voluntary organisations and to provide additional funding in accordance with agreed criteria. The prime responsibility for the provision and funding of continuing education lies with the health boards and in particular with the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Units (NMPDUs).

Additional funds will be allocated by the National Council to the NMPDUs in response to submissions received from them in the form of a plan for the provision of continuing education, in which the additional funding required from the National Council is clearly identified and justified.

Criteria for the Allocation of Additional Support for Continuing Education from the National Council

The criteria for the funding of proposed programmes includes the following:

- The programme will constitute a valuable learning experience and make a meaningful contribution to the professional development of the nurse/midwife involved
- The programme will contribute to the development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the nurse/midwife involved.
- The programme will be part of the strategic development of the nursing and midwifery services provided in the area and as such relate to the needs of the service addressed within the service plan and to health policy priorities.
- The programme will enhance nursing and midwifery practice, patient/client care, patient/client education and/or the administration of nursing and midwifery practice.
- The programme may be part of a programme designed to enhance nursing, midwifery and relevant health research.
- Activities eligible for funding will include formal educational programmes, seminars, conferences, workshops and courses accredited by the National Council.

- Priority will be given to programmes designed to enhance equity of access to educational opportunities and to provide development opportunities in areas that would not otherwise be viable or that would not be funded by other agencies.

Process for Approval of Additional Funding for Continuing Education by the National Council

All additional funding for continuing education provided by the National Council will be channelled through the NMPDUs. The process for approval will consist of the following steps:

1. Submission of plans by each of the NMPDUs. The submission will include:
 - A description of the programmes for which funding is required
 - A description of the outcomes to be achieved
 - An outline of the method to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the programme
 - A description of the method of reporting back to the National Council on the results of the programme
 - A detailed description of the costs involved and the funding required.
2. Review and assessment by the Executive of the National Council of the plans submitted in line with the criteria outlined for the allocation of additional funding.
3. Report on proposals for funding prepared by the Executive and submitted for approval to the National Council.
4. Funding allocated to approved programmes.

The full text of the document *Criteria for the Allocation of Additional Funding for Continuing Education by the National Council* (February 2001) is available on request from the National Council and on the website (www.ncnm.ie).

APPLYING FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Applications for funding for continuing education programmes should contain the following information:

- The name of the health board (s) involved
- The title of the continuing education programme
- The title of award (if any) and awarding institution (eg, *Certificate in Diabetes Nursing awarded by Nosuch University*)
- Name(s) and address(es) of organisation(s) involved
- Specialist area(s) involved (eg, *diabetes nursing, behaviour management, etc*)
- Division(s) of the register involved (ie, *RGN, RM, etc*)
- The duration of the continuing education programme
- Commencement date envisaged
- A summary of the continuing education programme
- Content and structure of the continuing education programme
- Profile of nurses/midwives involved in the continuing education programme
- A description of the service(s) seeking funding (eg, *location, population [workforce and targeted service], services provided*)
- How the programme will enhance nursing and midwifery practice, patient/client care, patient/client education and/or the administration of nursing and midwifery practice
- Whether or not the programme is designed to enhance nursing, midwifery or relevant health research
- The outcomes to be achieved (eg, *practice, service, professional development outcomes*)
- The method(s) to be used to evaluate the continuing education programme
- The proposed budget, including such items as human resources (wte hours and salary per annum), fees (if relevant), equipment, materials/consumables, etc)

Application forms are available on request from the National Council and the Director of the NMPDU in each health board.

Applicants should indicate:

- How the continuing education programme will contribute to the development of the nursing and midwifery services provided in the area
- How the continuing education programme will address the needs of (a) the service as outlined within the service plan, and (b) health policy priorities
- How the programme will constitute (a) a valuable learning experience; and (b) make a meaningful contribution to the professional development of the nurse or midwife involved
- How the programme will contribute to the development of the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the nurse or midwife involved



NURSE AND MIDWIFE PRESCRIBING PROJECT

The purpose of the Nurse and Midwife Prescribing Project is to review the involvement of nurses and midwives in the prescribing of medical preparations, with a view to producing prescribing guidelines for this group of healthcare professionals. The Project Team is in the process of collecting and analysing the written submissions. Work is currently underway for the review of the An Bord Altranais document *Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on the Administration of Medical Preparations 2000*.

Background

Currently nurses or midwives are not authorised to administer medical preparations without a prescription issued by a medical practitioner. Medical preparations are defined as (a) a substance which is sold under a proprietary designation and which may be used for the prevention or treatment of any human ailment, infirmity, injury or defect, or (b) any other prophylactic, diagnostic or therapeutic substance which may be used for the prevention or treatment of any human ailment, infirmity, injury or defect (An Bord Altranais 2000a).

The Commission on Nursing (Government of Ireland 1998) considered that there was a need to allow greater flexibility to nurses and midwives in the administration of non-prescribed drugs according to agreed protocols with medical practitioners. It recommended that An Bord Altranais, as a matter of urgency, review the guidelines in relation to the administration or application of non-prescribed drugs by nurses and midwives. A decision was taken by An Bord Altranais to establish a project to initiate and evaluate nurse and midwife prescribing in relation to both non-prescription medications and prescription-only medications (An Bord Altranais 2000b). An Bord also recommended that a review of legislation be conducted with a view to allowing nurse and midwife prescribing of prescription-only medications in appropriate circumstances.

The project commenced in September 2001. It is being undertaken by the National Council and An Bord Altranais in partnership and funded by both parties. A three-year project plan and terms of reference had been agreed. The first meeting of the Prescribing Project Steering Committee was convened on 6 December. Topics presented at this meeting included nurse and midwife prescribing experiences in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, Australia

and New Zealand. The legislative framework necessary for the implementation of nurse and midwife prescribing in these countries was also examined. The Project Team provided an overview of current nurse and midwife prescribing models (see below). Project developments include a review of *Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on the Administration of Medical Preparations* (An Bord Altranais 2000a).

Terms of Reference of the Project

The terms of reference for the review of nurse and midwife prescribing are as follows:

- Review of current practice, identifying relevant issues
- Review of appropriate international literature and experience
- Review of national and international legislation related to nurse and midwife prescribing
- Review of *Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on the Administration of Medical Preparations* (An Bord Altranais 2000a)
- Review of intra- and inter-professional boundaries and their implications for nurse and midwife prescribing
- Consideration of circumstances in which nurses and midwives might prescribe
- Identification of pilot sites suitable for the initiation of nurse and midwife prescribing
- Consideration of documentation necessary to support nurse and midwife prescribing
- Initiation and evaluation of nurse and midwife prescribing in pilot sites
- Produce detailed guidelines including a framework for nurse and midwife prescribing where appropriate.

Prescribing Models

Nurses and midwives throughout the world have undertaken the responsibility of prescribing for their patients as part of their holistic delivery of care. A literature review of nurse/midwife prescribing revealed a number of prescribing practices in use in a wide variety of health care settings.

These prescribing models can be divided into 3 categories:

1. Initial/Independent/Autonomous
2. Dependent/Collaborative/Semi-autonomous/Supplementary
3. Group Protocol

Initial/Independent/Autonomous prescribing is a practice model in which the nurse/midwife prescribes or advises about medication independently without the collaboration of a medical practitioner. Clinical decision-making, including formation of a diagnosis, is required. The prescriber is **fully** accountable in his/her practice for the decision to prescribe. A limited or open drug formulary may be used as predetermined by legislative and local authority.

Dependent/Collaborative/Semi-autonomous/Supplementary prescribing takes place where a collaborative relationship exists between the nurse/midwife and the medical practitioner. This may involve written collaborative practice agreements or verbal consultations. Direct supervision by the doctor may not be required. The nurse/midwife may not be responsible for diagnosing the medical condition of the patient. Where a nurse/midwife prescribes a medical preparation, he/she is accountable for the prescribing decision.

In other dependent practices the medical practitioner is required to sign the prescription written by the nurse/midwife, thereby making the practitioner responsible for the prescription.

- **Repeat prescription writing** after the medical practitioner has written the initial prescription is a form of dependent prescribing.
- **Timing and dosage changes** of a medication are also considered within the realm of dependent or supplementary prescribing.

Group Protocol use for prescriptions authorises the nurse/midwife to "prescribe" a medication to groups of patients in a defined situation. The medication protocol should adhere to particular standards such as signifying who is responsible and competent to carry out the protocol. The accountability of all individuals involved in the use of the protocol should be stated along with the identified patient population. Emphasis is placed on multidisciplinary effort and incorporation of best practice evidence for creating group protocols.

Comments

The Project Team welcomes any comments or questions regarding the project and can be reached at An Bord Altranais (01 - 639 8553/8557 or via e-mail: kwalsh@nursingboard.ie or dcarroll@nursingboard.ie).

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www.nurse-prescriber.co.uk

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT UNITS

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH DIRECTORS OF THE NMPDUS, SPRING 2002

Date	Time	Location	Venue	Health Board
13/03/02	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Galway	Ardilaun House Hotel	WHB regional meeting
09/04/02	9.00 am - 5.00 pm	Kilkenny	Kilkenny River Court Hotel	SEHB regional meeting
17/04/02	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Bundoran	Great Northern Hotel	NWHB regional meeting
14/05/02	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Carrickmacross	Nuremore Hotel	NEHB regional meeting
15/05/02	9.30 am - 5.00 pm	Dublin	City West Hotel	ERHA regional meeting
22/05/02	10.00am - 1.00 pm	Tullamore	Tullamore Court Hotel	MHB regional meeting
28/05/02	9.30 am - 1.00 pm	Cork	Rochestown Park Hotel	SHB regional meeting

The Director of the NMPDU in the MWHB is due to take up post in mid-March.

FIRST ADVANCED NURSE PRACTITIONER POST APPROVED

The National Council is pleased to announce that it has approved the first Advanced Nurse Practitioner post in Ireland. This post has been established in St James's Hospital, Dublin, and is in the area of emergency nursing. This exciting initiative to develop the role of a nurse practitioner in emergency nursing was designed, developed and piloted in the Emergency Department in St. James's Hospital in 1996. The evolution of this role is an important development in the advancement of the clinical career pathway for experienced and expert emergency nurses. The role has proven effective in the provision of a more seamless service to the population seeking emergency care both internationally and nationally. Research evidence suggests that such roles prove to be effective, efficient, and safe and result in a high degree of patient and practitioner satisfaction.

This historic development within the Irish health care setting highlights the strong commitment of nurses to developing services and to enhancing health care provision. This post demonstrates many of the principles of the new Irish Health Strategy *Quality and Fairness: A Health System for You* (Dept of Health and Children 2001). Such a role provides a people-centred service; a service that demonstrates clear accountability where quality of care is to the fore and a service underpinned by equity and fairness.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2002

The second annual of the National Council will be held on Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 November in Jury's Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin. There will be an exhibition of poster presentations, so now is the time to start working on them. Further details of the conference and booking forms will be published at a later date.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PRACTICE

The National Council executive has begun work on identifying future developments in nursing and midwifery practice.

Discussion papers will be produced and will include a review of the practice areas within each division of nursing and midwifery. In order to make these papers relevant and practice-focused, the National Council will consult widely with the profession and key stakeholders. There will be a call for submissions (see the website and future newsletters for details).

STRATEGY FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY IN THE COMMUNITY

The Nursing Policy Division of the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) is currently developing a National Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery in the Community. A steering group with representatives from key agencies and chaired by Mary McCarthy, Chief Nursing Officer, DoHC, will have lead responsibility for the production of the strategy. The strategy document will be produced by a small project team (see below) led by a project officer from the Nursing Policy Division.

Consultation with stakeholders is viewed as an integral part of the development of the strategy. In December 2001 ninety key stakeholders participated in a two-day consultation process, to develop a working vision for the strategy and to identify key priority action areas.

The resulting working vision for nursing and midwifery in the community in Ireland contains the following elements.

The community nursing and midwifery service should:

- be client/patient/user focused,
- be equity/needs based,
- support team work (nursing and midwifery and multidisciplinary),
- include community development and empowerment approaches,
- adopt a public health (geographical) focus, and
- include a home focus.

NEWS

In support of this vision the following three priority areas for action have been identified:

1. Practice
2. Education
3. Policy/structural issues.

Written submissions are now invited to further inform the development of the strategy. You can obtain a consultation pack by contacting Anna Lloyd or Una Lynch (see below for contact details), or by visiting the Strategy website at www.namic.ie and downloading a copy of the consultation form. The closing date for submissions is 1 March 2002.

Project Team

Una Lynch

Project Officer (Strategy for Nursing & Midwifery)
(01) 635 4714

Anna Lloyd

Nurse Adviser (Paediatric) (01) 635 4517

Cormac Walsh

Nurse Adviser (Mental Health)(01) 635 4715

Jenny Hogan

Nurse Adviser (General)(01) 635 4046

Noreen Aylward-Murphy

Nurse Adviser (Community)(01) 635 4333

Patricia Larkin

Midwifery Adviser (01) 635 4204

DAFFODIL BURSARIES

The Irish Cancer Society (ICS), as the national charity for cancer care has a long-established track record of supporting diploma and higher diploma education programmes in oncology nursing. In order to encourage nurses to participate in diploma-level oncology training and to work in oncology services, the ICS is making available Daffodil Bursaries. Any nurse who is working, or intends to work in oncology services in Ireland and is

undertaking a Diploma or Higher Diploma programme in oncology nursing is eligible to apply. Bursaries of up to a maximum of €750 are granted and are awarded on a competition basis.

For further information and application forms contact:

- Nursing Services Unit
Irish Cancer Society
5 Northumberland Road
Dublin 4
- (01) 2310 529
- www.cancer.ie/forms

NATIONAL COUNCIL WEBSITE

Watch out for our re-designed website with some added features. You can download a Powerpoint presentation about the National Council to assist you in staff development/education, or view the Conference Papers or Poster Presentation Abstract from our 2001 Conference.

If you wish to advertise professional events on our website free of charge, please contact Mary Farrelly at the National Council, giving the following details:

- Title of event
- Key speaker(s)
- Date of event
- Time of event
- Venue
- Cost (if any)
- Organised/hosted by (hospital, health board, etc)
- Contact person
- Contact phone number
- Contact fax number
- Contact e-mail address
- Contact address
- Website/page



specialist NURSING/midwifery groups

ANAIL (RESPIRATORY NURSES ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND)

ANAIL (Respiratory Nurses Association of Ireland) have launched their website hosted by the National Council on www.ncnm.ie/anail.

About ANAIL

ANAIL was set up in 1995 and now has over 40 members nationally. Its aims are:

- To facilitate networking for nurses and midwives working in respiratory care.
- To promote asthma and respiratory care, and
- To disseminate knowledge about asthma and respiratory care.

Members meet regularly around the country to share information and to network. ANAIL also produce a newsletter for its members which is a valuable source of information for all nurses and midwives interested in respiratory care.

How to Join

If you are a nurse or midwife working in the area of respiratory care contact Mary Mc Donald at:

National Children's Hospital
Adelaide and Meath incorporating the
National Children's Hospital
Tallaght
Dublin 24

E-mail mary.mcdonald@amnch.ie or download the membership application form on ANAIL's website.

ANAIL Website

The website provides information about ANAIL and its members. Details of the association's activities are posted there and the newly launched newsletter is available for downloading.

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL INFORMATICS ASSOCIATION (IMIA) MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATICS WORKING GROUP

The International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA) recently agreed a recommendation to establish a Mental Health Informatics Working Group (Working Group 8). The development was triggered by an increasing recognition of the need to consider the special information and informatics needs of the mental health domain, which represents some 10% of all healthcare activity. It has special information-handling requirements, with considerable potential to benefit from modern informatics techniques and opportunities, but different approaches and priorities are needed compared with more biophysical aspects of healthcare.

The mission of the Working Group will be to promote development and understanding of concepts and techniques in health informatics to support the delivery of mental health care, taking a patient-focused integrated and inter-disciplinary approach, in a way which would also contribute to and enrich the overall health informatics field. Participation is open to anyone active or interested in this field, of any profession or discipline, and it is intended to seek truly global representation and activity.

Activities

The Working Group will encourage submission of papers to each triennial Medinfo meeting, and aims to seek the organisation of a special subject meeting in each of the intervening years. Additionally, networking may enable collaborative working between interested parties, not least to address research issues, including the development of international standards.

Topics within mental health informatics which the Working Group might address include:

- Recording and conveying meaning and intention within records
- Empirical and analogue display of progress of mental health patients
- Ethical, content, and data protection issues of mental health records across boundaries
- Definition of episodes, progress, case-mix, and costing
- Structured taxonomies of interventions
- Care plans, resource availability, and service delivery
- Client data entry and recording
- Telepsychiatry

Initial Leadership

The IMIA Assembly appointed as founder Chair Michael Rigby, Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Health Planning and Management, Keele University, UK, who has experience of policy, practical research and publication in this field: he was rapporteur of the former WHO Group. The Co-Chair appointed is Ann Sheridan of Ireland, a psychiatric nurse and former Principal Tutor who subsequently managed a mental health EPR project and is current Secretary of the Health Informatics Society of Ireland (HISI); she is now Assistant Director of the Nursing and Midwifery Development Unit, Eastern Regional Health Authority, Ireland.

How to Participate

Anyone interesting in contributing to the pattern of activities is invited to contact Michael Rigby (e-mail m.j.rigby@keele.ac.uk; fax +44 1782 711737). Those wishing to receive further details of activities should contact Ann Sheridan (e-mail ann.Sheridan@erha.ie; fax + 353 1 4065611).



NATIONAL COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

National Council Executive Staff

Yvonne O'Shea

Chief Executive Officer

Kathleen Mac Lellan

Head of Continuing Education & Professional Development

Christine Hughes

Professional Development Officer

Mary Farrelly

Professional Development Officer

Georgina Farren

Professional Development Officer

National Council Administrative Staff

Helen Bohan Services Manager

Kate Brennan Personal Assistant to Chief Executive Officer

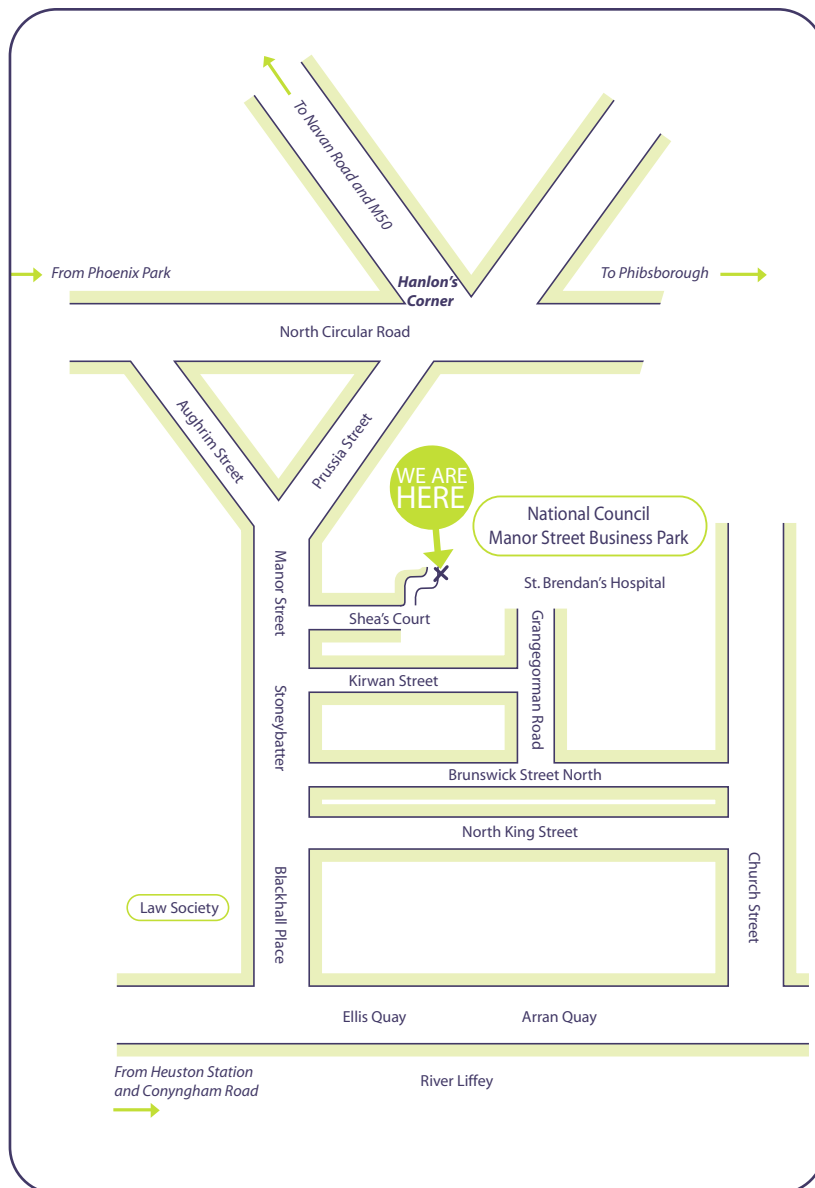
Jackie Lillis Administrative Officer

■ 6-7 Manor Street Business Park
Manor Street
Dublin 7

■ Tel: (01) 8825 300/301/302
Fax: (01) 8680366

■ E-mail: admin@ncnm.ie

■ Website: www.ncnm.ie



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