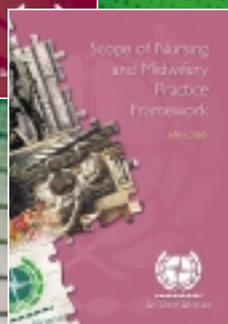


You are advised to familiarise yourself with the following publications of An Bord Altranais during your programme:



FINALLY...

An Bord Altranais would like to extend a warm welcome and wish you every success as you begin your career in nursing. The purpose of this guidance is to outline some information about An Bord Altranais and provide some guidance for the clinical practice experience that you will undertake during your programme of study.

You are advised to familiarise yourself with the following publications of An Bord Altranais during your programme:

- The Code of Professional Conduct for each Nurse and Midwife (April 2000)
- Requirements and Standards for Nurse Registration Education Programmes (November 2000)
- Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (2000).
- Recording Clinical Practice - Guidance to Nurses and Midwives (November 2002)



An Bord Altranais

An Bord Altranais, 31/32 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin 2.
Telephone: 353-1-6398500 Fax: 353-1-676 3348
email: admin@nursingboard.ie
Web: www.nursingboard.ie



GUIDANCE FOR NURSING STUDENTS

OCTOBER 2003

AN BORD ALTRANAIS GUIDANCE FOR NURSING STUDENTS

AN BORD ALTRANAIS

An Bord Altranais is the statutory body (Nurses Act, 1985) responsible for the regulation of nursing and midwifery in Ireland. The general concern of An Bord Altranais is the promotion of high standards of education, training and professional conduct among nurses and midwives thus ensuring protection of the public.

The main functions of An Bord Altranais are to:

- provide for the education and training of nurses and nursing students;
- establish and maintain a register of nurses;
- enquire into allegations of unfitness to practice;
- provide guidance to the Professions.

Nursing and midwifery practice should be based on the principles of professional conduct, which are outlined in the Code of Professional Conduct for each Nurse and Midwife, (April 2000). Information regarding the standards and requirements in relation to the course you are undertaking are detailed in Requirements and Standards for Nurse Registration Education Programmes (November 2000).

CANDIDATE REGISTER

An Bord Altranais has a register of candidates admitted to nurse training programmes. As a pre-registration student your name is entered on this Candidate Register and you will receive a Candidate Registration Card.

This card identifies you as a candidate member of a professional body which advocates high standards.

The Candidate Registration Card may be requested to identify you as a nursing student while on clinical practice placements.

STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

As a student you will come into direct contact with patients/clients and their families and will actively participate in giving care appropriate to your level of knowledge and practical experience, with the supervision and direction of a

registered nurse/midwife. As a student you have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the patient/client.

As your knowledge, skills, experience and competence develop you will increasingly accept more responsibility.

As a student, it is important that you do not undertake care for which you have not been prepared or for which you are not appropriately supervised.

If you are unsure discuss the matter with your supervisor.

THE STUDENT AND PATIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality concerning the patient/client records is an expression of the trust inherent in the nurse's practice relationship with a patient/client. Information regarding a patient's/client's history, treatment and state of health is confidential and is guided by both ethical and legal considerations. You are advised of the following:

- Clearly identify yourself as a student as distinct from a registered nurse/midwife, when introducing yourself to the patient/client.
- Access to and use of the patient/client records must be with the supervision of a registered nurse/midwife.
- Should you wish to refer to the care of an individual patient/client in a written assignment, you must seek permission from your supervisor and you must ensure that you do not in any way identify the patient/client or health care facility.
- Do familiarise yourself with the local policy or guidelines with regard to how the confidentiality of records is maintained within a particular health care facility. There are explicit guidelines on confidentiality outlined in the The Code of Professional Conduct for each Nurse and Midwife (April 2000). It is also advisable that you refer to Recording Clinical Practice - Guidance to Nurses and Midwives (November 2002).

Your attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 28 (5) of the Nurses Act, 1985 which states:

'Nothing in this section shall operate to prevent the Board from refusing to register the name of any person, who is otherwise entitled to be registered, on the grounds of the unfitness of that person to engage in the practice of nursing.'

Nursing is both a physically and mentally challenging Profession. In any event where the Board considers an application for registration pursuant to this section of the Act it will consider any information relating to the professional conduct and/or fitness of an applicant to engage in nursing practice.

The Board may only consider such applications **at the point of application for registration**. Decisions pursuant to Section 28 (5) of the Nurses Act, 1985, are not made at point of entry to a nursing education programme or at any time during a nursing education programme.

In any such consideration, the Board may also consider any prior convictions of an Applicant.

In any such consideration, the Board will consider each case on an individual basis, and the Applicant will be invited to make written representation to the Board in the matter, will be invited to attend such Board meeting to make such representation, or may be represented at such meeting.

Any Applicant subject to a decision by the Board to refuse registration pursuant to Section 28 (5) of the Nurses Act, 1985, may apply to the High Court for cancellation of this decision pursuant to Section 28 (7) of the Act.

Please contact An Bord Altranais in regard to any general queries that you may have in regard to this section of the Act.

Any personal queries in regard to this section of the Act should be brought to the attention of your Nurse Education Director/Course Co-ordinator at your point of entry to training or at any time during your nurse education programme.

We hope that you will find this guidance beneficial and that it will help you appreciate the responsibilities that you will assume as a student.

An Bord Altranais wishes you every success in your nursing career.

