



An Bord Altranais

*Guidance to Nurses and
Midwives on the Management
of Violence / Challenging
Behaviour*

*An Bord Altranais
31 / 32 Fitzwilliam Square
Dublin 2*

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1. Violence can be defined as “verbal, threatening behaviour or actual physical damage (including sexual assault)” (*Health and Safety Authority – Who Cares for the Carers?*).
2. It is now known that nurses, in all disciplines and in all clinical areas, are at increased risk of violence. Where such risk exists, nurses/midwives are required to be thoroughly familiar with specific legal provisions governing such activities as restraint and seclusion of patients, e.g. Mental Treatment legislation, *Nursing Homes (Care & Welfare) Regulations, 1993*
3. Currently, accidents and injuries occurring at work are reported to the Health and Safety Authority, provided that the criteria laid down by that organisation are fulfilled.
4. Courses which seek to prepare nurses to manage incidents of violence, must first be submitted to An Bord Altranais for approval.
5. The skills acquired through successful completion of approved courses are required to be updated on a regular basis.
6. The primary objective of the nurse/midwife in relation to the management of violence must, at all times, be directed towards its prevention. When, and if, preventative measures have failed, the primary objective of the nurse/midwife will be directed towards maintaining the safety and well-being of the patient and those others involved in the violent incident.
7. All clinical areas shall have available well defined, rationally structured nursing policies in relation to the prevention, the management, the subsequent follow up and evaluation of violent incidents.
8. Training programmes in the management of violent behaviour should be a minimum of two weeks duration (one week of theory and one week of practice).