



Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework

Glossary

For the purposes of this document the following terms are explained.

Accountability: being answerable for your actions, inactions and the professional decisions you make in the course of your practice.

Autonomy: self-determination; a person's ability to make choices on the basis of their own values.

Collaborative practice: where several health workers from different professional backgrounds work together with individuals of all ages, families, groups and communities, to deliver the highest quality of care (adapted from World Health Organization 2010).

Competency: the ability of the nurse or midwife to practise safely and to fulfil their professional responsibility effectively within their scope of practice.

Delegation: when the nurse or midwife transfers to another person the responsibility of the performance of a particular role or task that is normally within the scope of practice of the delegator – that is, the nurse or midwife transferring the task.

Evidence-based practice: the use of the best available evidence together with the nurse or midwife's expertise and the patient's values and preferences in making healthcare decisions.

Expanded practice: a change in the role of a nurse or midwife to include areas of practice that are within the overall scope of practice of the nursing and midwifery professions but have not previously been within the nurse or midwife's traditional scope of practice. Examples include, advanced nurse and midwife practitioners, and nurse and midwife prescribing of medicines and ionising radiation.

Framework: a structure of organised concepts or ideas that provide meaning, rationale and guidance for professional practice.

Health Care Worker (HCW): a person employed within a healthcare, residential or community setting, whose role includes direct patient care and performing delegated care activities, supported in organisational policy.

Must: commands the action a nurse or midwife is obliged to take from which no deviation whatsoever is allowed.

Patient: a person who uses health and social care services. In some instances, the terms ‘client’, ‘individual’, ‘person’, ‘people’, ‘resident’, ‘service user’, ‘mother’, ‘woman’ or ‘baby’ are used in place of the term ‘patient’, depending on the health or social care setting.

Overall benefit: A decision that is based on the patient’s ‘overall benefit’ is a holistic judgement that takes into account the patient’s known values and preferences, information from relevant others who may have insight into the patient’s values and preferences, and is in addition to the patient’s clinical best interests. The decision is not solely a clinical or legal judgment that lacks reference to the particular patient.

Responsibility: the obligation to perform duties, tasks or roles using sound professional judgement and being answerable for the decisions made in doing this.

Scope of Practice: the range of roles, functions, responsibilities and activities which a registered nurse or registered midwife is educated, competent and has authority to perform.

Should: indicates a strong recommendation to perform a particular action from which deviation in particular circumstances must be justified.

Supervision: when a nurse or midwife oversees, directs, guides or supports students or regulated or unregulated health care workers. Supervision may be direct or indirect.

Therapeutic relationship: the relationship of care established and maintained between a person requiring or receiving care and a nurse or midwife through the use of professional knowledge, skills and attitudes in order to provide nursing or midwifery care expected to contribute to the person’s health outcomes (adapted from the Nursing Council of New Zealand)

Unregulated Health Care Worker: a person who is not statutorily regulated and is employed within a healthcare, residential or community setting, and whose role includes a component of direct patient care and the performance of delegated care activities, supported in organisational policy.