

Policy: Multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination results

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Purpose

This document sets out the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia's (the Board) policy on results of the multiple-choice question (MCQ) examinations undertaken by internationally qualified nurses and midwives (IQNM) as part of the pre-registration assessment process (IQNM assessment process).

Scope

This policy applies to all IQNM completing the outcomes-based assessment (OBA) pathway as part of the IQNM assessment process.

This document contains information on:

- the MCQ examination result requirements for IQNM
- recognition of an IQNM's previous MCQ examination results, and
- timeframes for release of MCQ examination results by Ahpra to IQNM.

Policy

The Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Committee (Assessment of overseas qualified nurses and midwives) (NMAC), established by the Board, oversees the OBA pathway. The NMAC will monitor MCQ examination results and make recommendations and/or give advice to the board on this policy and associated matters.

MCQ examination result requirements

IQNM who are confirmed by Ahpra as Stream B at the end of the portfolio stage of the IQNM assessment process must complete the OBA pathway for the profession and division relevant to their portfolio. Each OBA pathway comprises an MCQ examination and an objective structured clinical examination (OSCE).

The MCQ examination results required to progress to the OSCE for each profession and division are:

- Registered nurse:
A pass result in the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), developed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and administered by Pearson VUE.
- Midwife:
A pass result in the Midwifery Council of New Zealand's (MCNZ) National Midwifery Examination (NME) modified for internationally qualified midwives (modified NME) delivered by Aspeq.
- Enrolled nurse:
 - a pass result in the enrolled nurse (EN) MCQ administered by Ahpra, or
 - a pass result in the *State Final Examination for registration in the Enrolled Nurse scope of practice* administered by the Nursing Council of New Zealand.

Recognition of previous MCQ examination result

Registered nurse

An internationally qualified registered nurse (IQRN) can meet the MCQ examination result requirements and progress to the RN OSCE if they provide verifiable evidence to Ahpra that they passed the NCLEX-RN within the 10 years preceding the date that Ahpra confirms the Stream B outcome.

Midwife

An internationally qualified midwife (IQM) can meet the MCQ examination result requirements and progress to the midwifery OSCE if they provide verifiable evidence to Ahpra that they have passed the modified NME delivered by Aspeq since it was introduced in March 2021.

Enrolled nurse

An internationally qualified enrolled nurse (IQEN) can meet the MCQ examination result requirements and progress to the EN OSCE if they provide verifiable evidence to Ahpra that they have passed the *State*

Final Examination for registration in the Enrolled Nurse scope of practice administered by the Nursing Council of New Zealand within the 10 years preceding the date that Ahpra confirms the Stream B outcome.

Timeframes for release of MCQ examination results

Ahpra must finalise the MCQ examination results and release them to IQNM within 42 calendar days of the examination sitting date.

Definitions and abbreviations

Nil

Associated documents

[NCLEX-RN MCQ Examination - Candidate Handbook](#)

[RN OSCE Examination - Candidate Handbook](#)

[Midwives MCQ Examination - Candidate Handbook](#)

[Midwives OSCE Examination - Candidate Handbook](#)

[Enrolled nurse MCQ Examination - Candidate Handbook](#)

[Enrolled nurse OSCE Examination - Candidate Handbook](#)

Document Control

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