

NMBA Public consultation paper

Proposed Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for
registered nurses prescribing in partnership

Feedback

On behalf of Cunningham Centre, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service

Question 1

Do you agree that suitably qualified and experienced registered nurses should be able to hold an endorsement to prescribe scheduled medicines in partnership with a partner prescriber?

Yes

No

Comment:

It is well within the scope of experienced RNs to hold this endorsement depending on the level of experience and educational requirements.

Question 2

After reading the proposed registration standard and guidelines, in your view, are there any additional elements that should be considered by organisations in establishing governance arrangements for prescribing in partnership?

Yes

No

Question 3

Two years' full time equivalent post initial registration experience has been proposed as a requirement for applying for endorsement. Do you think this is sufficient level of experience?

Yes

No

If no, please describe why and include reference to any supporting evidence.

The 2 years of completed study would need to be undertaken in the same area. Once 2 years is completed the RNs would then be able to undertake a course of postgraduate study leading to endorsement.

Question 4

The NMBA is proposing that the education for registered nurses should be two units of study that addresses the NPS Prescribing Competencies Framework. Do you think this level of additional education would appropriately prepare an RN to prescribe in partnership?

Yes

No

If no, please describe why.

Nurse Practitioners are currently required to undertake 8 modules of study. RIPRNs who currently hold the scheduled medicines endorsement have also undertaken a minimum of 4 modules of postgraduate study. SRHN and IPNs have also undertaken postgraduate study and clinical practice to work under protocol. The current undergraduate nursing programs do not prepare RNs to work under these protocols as RNs require experience in the field together with postgraduate study that includes pharmacokinetics/pharmacology, quality use of medicines and Clinical assessment and practice modules. A postgraduate course with a minimum of 4 Modules including the above suggestions should be considered for RNs to prescribe in partnership. History and assessment are fundamental in administering, supplying and prescribing. There would be a place in Rural and Remote practice where potential partners would be available that prescribing in partnership would be beneficial to RIPRN nurses. Considering the amount of study already undertaken is greater than what is being proposed will there be a transition pathway for these nurses?

Question 5

a) Should a period of supervised practice be required for the endorsement?

Yes

No

Comment:

b) If a period of supervised practice was required for the endorsement, would a minimum of three months full time equivalent supervised practice be sufficient?

Yes

No

If no, please describe why

The period of supervised practice could be included as part of the Prescribing in Partnership course. A number of prescribing in partnership encounters or hours as determined by the board would be more beneficial in allowing these nurses to consolidate their practice. For example nurses working in a tertiary setting may have the opportunity of multiple encounters on a daily basis. A nurse working in a rural environment may not have the opportunity to see many patients in a three month period.

Questions for feedback

1. Do you agree that suitably qualified and experienced registered nurses should be able to hold an endorsement to prescribe scheduled medicines in partnership with a partner prescriber?

Yes

No

Comment:

It is well within the scope of experienced RNs to hold this endorsement depending on the level of experience and educational requirements.

2. After reading the proposed registration standard and guidelines, in your view, are there any additional elements that should be considered by organisations in establishing governance arrangements for prescribing in partnership?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

3. Two years' full time equivalent post initial registration experience has been proposed as a requirement for applying for endorsement. Do you think this is sufficient level of experience?

Yes

No

If no, please describe why and include reference to any supporting evidence.

The two years of completed study would need to be undertaken in the same area. Once two years is completed the RNs would then be able to undertake a course of postgraduate study leading to endorsement.

4. The NMBA is proposing that the education for registered nurses should be two units of study that addresses the NPS Prescribing Competencies Framework. Do you think this level of additional education would appropriately prepare an RN to prescribe in partnership?

Yes

No

If no, please describe why.

Nurse Practitioners are currently required to undertake 8 modules of study. RIPRNs who currently hold the scheduled medicines endorsement have also undertaken a minimum of 4 modules of postgraduate study. SRHN and IPNs have also undertaken postgraduate study and clinical practice to work under protocol. The current undergraduate nursing programs do not prepare RNs to work under these protocols as RNs require experience in the field together with postgraduate study that includes pharmacokinetics/pharmacology, quality use of medicines and Clinical assessment and practice modules. A postgraduate course with a minimum of 4 Modules including the above suggestions should be considered for RNs to prescribe in partnership. History and assessment are fundamental in administering, supplying and prescribing. There would be a place in Rural and Remote practice where potential partners would be available that prescribing in partnership would be beneficial to RIPRN nurses. Considering the amount of study already undertaken is greater than what is being proposed, consideration for a transition pathway for these nurses should be undertaken.

5. a) Should a period of supervised practice be required for the endorsement?

Yes

No

Comment:

The period of supervised practice could be included as part of the Prescribing in Partnership course. A number of prescribing in partnership encounters or hours as determined by the board would be more beneficial in allowing these nurses to consolidate their practice. For example nurses working in a tertiary setting may have the opportunity of multiple encounters on a daily basis. A nurse working in a rural environment or other contexts of practice may not have the opportunity to undertake as many encounters.

b) If a period of supervised practice was required for the endorsement, would a minimum of three months full time equivalent supervised practice be sufficient?

Yes

No

If no, please describe why

The period of supervised practice could be included as part of the Prescribing in Partnership course. A number of prescribing in partnership encounters or hours as determined by the board would be more beneficial in allowing these nurses to consolidate their practice. For example nurses working in a tertiary setting may have the opportunity of multiple encounters on a daily basis. A nurse working in a rural environment or other contexts of practice may not have the opportunity to undertake as many encounters.

6. Is the content and structure of the proposed *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses prescribing in partnership* (at **Attachment 1**) clear and relevant?

Yes

No

Comment:

7. Is the structure and content of the proposed *Guidelines for registered nurses applying for endorsement for scheduled medicines -prescribing in partnership* (at **Attachment 2**) helpful, clear and relevant?

Yes

No

Comment:

8. Do you have any additional comments on the proposed registration standard or guidelines?

Are there provisions in place if the partner is unavailable or on leave?