

Background information

Consultation regulation impact statement: Registration standard Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber

Introduction

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) undertakes functions as set by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law). The NMBA regulates the practice of nursing and midwifery in Australia, and one of its key roles is to protect the public. The NMBA does this by developing registration standards, professional codes, guidelines and standards for practice which together establish the requirements for the professional and safe practice of nurses and midwives in Australia.

The NMBA has developed a consultation regulation impact statement (C-RIS) that analyses a number of options for the proposed model of designated registered nurse (RN) prescribing to support the proposed *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines – designated registered nurse prescriber*¹ (the proposed registration standard) and invites your feedback.

Background

In March 2017, the Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (Australian Government, Department of Health) held a national symposium that was designed to explore the potential for RN prescribing. An outcome of the symposium was the overarching support to adopt a health professional prescribing pathway that would see appropriately trained and educated RNs prescribe within their scope of practice, under designation or supervision of an authorised health practitioner. The subsequent NMBA discussion paper led to the development of the the proposed registration standard.

The proposed registration standard has been widely consulted on with preliminary consultation occurring in April 2018, public consultation in July 2019 and finally profession-specific consultation in March 2019. The feedback from all rounds of consultation informed the development of the proposed registration standard and associated guidelines.

Before the proposed registration standard can be submitted for Ministerial approval, the Office of Impact Analysis within the Australian Government, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet determined that consultation on the regulatory impact of the proposed registration standard and guidelines is required.

Consideration and development of the **C-RIS for designated registered nurse prescribing** has been carefully planned, informed, and underpinned by the best available evidence. The consultation questions contained within the C-RIS will assist us to understand the costs, benefits and impacts of the options and how the regulatory proposal will work in practice. The C-RIS is an evaluative process designed to analyse the impact of the options put forward to guide informed decision-making.

Scope

To inform the development of the C-RIS a targeted literature review has been conducted exploring peer reviewed journals and relevant secondary sources. A review of several key reports, competency and

¹ The registration standard was initially titled 'Registered nurse prescribing in partnership' and was amended to 'Designated registered nurse prescriber' following public consultation.

practice standards and documents arising from the introduction of registered nurse prescribing has been undertaken and included (but was not limited to) the:

- NPS: Prescribing Competency Framework (2012)
- Health Workforce Australia: Health Professionals Prescribing Pathway (HPPP) Project Final Report (2013)
- ANMAC Endorsed Midwife Accreditation Standards (2015)
- NMBA Registered nurse standards for practice (2016)
- Department of Health – Final outcomes report: registered nurse/midwife prescribing symposium (May 2017)
- NMBA ANZCCNMO Discussion paper – Registered nurse and midwife prescribing (October 2017)
- NMBA Public consultation paper – Proposed Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines for registered nurses prescribing in partnership (July 2018)

Registered Nurse Prescribing Working Group

The Registered Nurse Prescribing Working Group (RNPWG) was established by the Australia and New Zealand Council of Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers (ANZCCNMO) and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) to develop a framework and other resources to support the development of prescribing of scheduled medicines by registered nurses.

The current members of the working group are as follows:

- Adjunct Professor Alison McMillan, Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer (Chair)
- Jacqueline Cross, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, New South Wales
- Francine Douce Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Tasmania
- Adjunct Professor Shelley Nowlan, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Queensland
- Annette Symes, NMBA National Board member
- Dr Chris Helms, NMBA National Board member
- Distinguished Professor Patsy Yates, Executive Dean, Faculty of Health and Director for Health Transformation, Queensland University of Technology
- Professor Marie Gerdtz, Head of Department of Nursing, Melbourne School of Health Sciences, The University of Melbourne
- Tanya Vogt, Executive Officer, Nursing and Midwifery
- Petrina Halloran, Policy Manager, Nursing and Midwifery
- Leah Bradley, Senior Policy Officer, Nursing and Midwifery

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution by former members of the working group:

- Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms, former Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
- Adjunct Professor Ann Maree Keenan, former Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Victoria
- Heather Keighly, former Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Northern Territory
- Steve Morris, former Chief Pharmacist, South Australia
- Professor Denise Fassett, former NMBA National Board member
- Melodie Heland, former NMBA National Board member
- Adjunct Associate Professor Lydia Dennett, former Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, South Australia

Purpose of this consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to seek feedback on the costs, benefits and impacts of the options provided within the C-RIS and how the regulatory proposal will work in practice.

Note: It is *not* the purpose of this paper to consult on the proposed registration standard and guidelines as this has already taken place.

Your feedback

The NMBA is inviting feedback on the C-RIS for the proposed *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines– designated registered nurse prescriber*. There are specific questions which we would like you to address in your response.

Public consultation starts on **Friday 16 June 2023**. Please provide your feedback as a Word document (not PDF) by email to nmbafeedback@ahpra.gov.au by close of business on **Friday 28 July 2023**.

Next steps

The NMBA will review and consider all feedback received from this consultation.

A Decision regulation impact statement (D-RIS) will be developed incorporating comments and feedback from submissions received on the C-RIS. The D-RIS will then be submitted to the Office of Impact Analysis for assessment before forming part of the final submission of the proposed *Registration standard: Endorsement for scheduled medicines– designated registered nurse prescriber* for Ministerial approval.