

4 May, 2010

## Recency of Practice

### FAQs

- Q1. What is 'Recency of Practice'?
- A. This means that a practitioner has maintained an adequate connection with, and recent practice in, the profession since qualifying or obtaining registration.
- Q2. What is meant by 'Practice'?
- A. Practice means any role, whether remunerated or not, in which the individual uses their skills and knowledge as a nurse or midwife. For the purposes of this registration standard, practice is not restricted to the provision of direct clinical care. It also includes working in a direct non-clinical relationship with clients, working in management, administration, education, research, advisory, regulatory or policy development roles, and any other roles that impact on safe, effective delivery of services in the profession and/or use of their professional skills.
- Q3. What sort of practice hours are acceptable over and above those defined in 'practice' above?
- A. Practice hours are recognised if evidence is provided to demonstrate:
- the nurse or midwife held a valid registration with a nursing or midwifery regulatory authority in the jurisdiction (either Australian or overseas) when the hours were worked; or
  - the role involved the application of nursing and/or midwifery knowledge and skills, or
  - the time was spent undertaking postgraduate education leading to an award or qualification that is relevant to the practice of nursing and/or midwifery.
- Q4. What evidence do I need to provide?
- A. You need to provide evidence that you have undertaken sufficient practice within the past 5 years for a period equivalent to a minimum of 3 months full time.
- Q5. How do I show that I have undertaken the equivalent of a minimum of 3 months fulltime within the past 5 years?
- A. You may provide any of the following: a service statement from your employer(s); pay slip(s); income statement for the year; and other methods at the discretion of NMBA.
- Q6. Do the hours have to be continuous?

**This information is current as of the date published, it may be updated and you are advised to check the NMBA website for changes.**

- A. No, they may be accumulated over the 5 year period.
- Q7. If I am a registered nurse and a registered midwife do I need to meet recency requirements for both professions?
- A. Yes, you need to provide evidence showing you have undertaken the required equivalent hours in both nursing and midwifery practice within the past 5 years. However, if you consider an aspect of your work could provide evidence for both nursing and midwifery practice, you may make a case for that. An example of this could be caring for women and their babies post caesarean section.
- Q8. If I am working overseas as a registered nurse or midwife are these hours acceptable evidence of Recency of Practice?
- A. Yes, however, you would need to provide the same level of evidence as required for practice undertaken in Australia.
- Q9. What happens if I am unable to meet the ROP requirements?
- A. You will need to provide evidence of:
- Successful completion of a program or assessment approved by the Board, or
  - Successful completion of a supervised practice experience approved by the Board.
- Q10. Do I need to keep evidence of my Recency of Practice?
- A. Yes, you should hold your evidence for three years in case you are selected for audit.
- Q11. Do I need to submit evidence of my Recency of Practice to NMBA each year?
- A. No, you only need to sign a declaration to say that you have met the Recency of Practice requirements. Evidence will only be requested if you are selected for audit.
- Q12. Will everybody be audited annually?
- A. No, the Board will have discretion to select a random number of nurses and midwives for auditing.
- Q13. What happens if my evidence for audit is not sufficient?
- A. Refer to the NMBA Policy on Audit which will be developed and available on the Board's website by the end of May.