
Return to practice standards

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Our readmission and revalidation standards set out the minimum number of practice hours that a nurse, midwife or nursing associate must undertake to remain on, or rejoin, our register. People unable to meet these practice hours requirements who wish to remain on, or rejoin, our register must successfully complete an NMC approved return to practice programme, or pass the NMC test of competence.

1. Readmission standards¹

In order to be eligible for readmission to the register you must have:

- completed 750 hours of practice in the previous five years, or
- completed 450 hours of practice in the previous three years, or
- completed the equivalent number of registered practice hours while registered with the relevant regulator overseas, or
- successfully completed a UK approved pre-registration qualification within five years, or
- successfully completed an NMC approved return to practice programme within five years, or
- passed the NMC test of competence within five years.

2. Revalidation standards

For those who have not completed minimum practice hours

If you have practised for fewer than the required number of hours in the three year period since your registration was last renewed (or you joined the register) then before the date of your application for renewal of registration you must:

- successfully complete an NMC approved return to practice programme, or
- pass the NMC test of competence.

¹ These standards are set under Article 19(3) of the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001 (the Order) Rule 3(4) of the Education, Registration and Registration Appeals Rules 2004.

Practice hours

Registration	Minimum total practice hours required
Nurse	450
Midwife	450
Nurse and SCHPN (Nurse/SCPHN)	450
Midwife and SCHPN (Midwife/SCPHN)	450
Nurse and midwife (including Nurse/Midwife/SCPHN)	900 (to include 450 for nursing, 450 for midwifery)
Nursing associate	450
Nursing associate and nurse	900 (to include 450 for nursing, 450 for nursing associate)
Nursing associate and midwife	900 (to include 450 for nursing associate and 450 for midwifery)
Nurse, midwife and nursing associate	1,350 (to include 450 for nursing, 450 for midwifery and 450 for nursing associate)

What we do

Our vision is safe, effective and kind nursing and midwifery that improves everyone's health and wellbeing. As the independent regulator of more than 808,000* nursing and midwifery professionals, we have an important role to play in making this a reality.

Our core role is to **regulate**. First, we promote high professional standards for nurses and midwives across the UK, and nursing associates in England. Second, we maintain the register of professionals eligible to practise. Third, we investigate concerns about nurses, midwives and nursing associates – something that affects a tiny minority of professionals each year. We believe in giving professionals the chance to address concerns, but we'll always take action when needed.

To regulate well, we **support** our professions and the public. We create resources and guidance that are useful throughout people's careers, helping them to deliver our standards in practice and address new challenges. We also support people involved in our investigations, and we're increasing our visibility so people feel engaged and empowered to shape our work.

Regulating and supporting our professions allows us to **influence** health and social care. We share intelligence from our regulatory activities and work with our partners to support workforce planning and sector-wide decision-making. We use our voice to speak up for a healthy and inclusive working environment for our professions.

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*Data captured from 30 September 2023.