

Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing

Guidance on Governance for the Registered Nurse and Midwife Prescriber working in an Integrated Role

Registered Nurse/Midwife Prescribers (RN/MPs) may practice across a diverse range of specialties, clinical settings or health service providers with varying degrees of autonomy and independence within their scope of practice and in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team. This range may be between two or more health service provider sites or between secondary and primary care.

The RN/MPs is professionally accountable to the director of nursing/midwifery/service manager/designate in the health service provider in which he/she is employed.

The following governance arrangements must be in place for the RN/MP working in an integrated role;

- ◆ Each health service provider must have a nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing policy, procedure, protocol or guideline in place. Health service providers can adopt the *National Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Guideline* (HSE, 2020) and develop addenda in relation to local governance requirements
- ◆ A referral pathway should be developed with key stakeholders within each site, taking into account local arrangements pertaining to the integrated role. This supports a robust communication process with all relevant stakeholders.

Governance: Health Service Provider

The following must be in place to support nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing in an integrated role;

- ◆ A firm commitment by health service provider/s senior management team to support the introduction and implementation of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing
- ◆ Arrangements to oversee the implementation of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing by having a named prescribing site coordinator (PSC)
- ◆ Risk management systems and processes for adverse event reporting, incident reporting, reporting of near misses (as detailed in the *HSE National Guideline for Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing* (HSE, 2020))
- ◆ An agreed schedule for routine audit of nurse/midwife medicinal product prescribing practice (NMBI, 2019) and as per local health service provider PPPGs
- ◆ The Director, or his/her designated officer, will lead on any communication regarding medicinal product prescribing with the other integrated site(s)
- ◆ Schedules for routine audit of nurse and midwife medicinal product prescribing practice

The Nurse Midwife Prescribing Data Collection System is available for local use as a support for monitoring and clinical audit and is available at: <https://healthservice.hse.ie/en/about-us/onmsd/onmsd/specific-programmes/nurse-midwife-medicinal-product-prescribing.html>

State Claims Agency Clinical Indemnity Scheme

The RN/MP working in an integrated role who is an employee of the Health Service Executive may carry out functions of the role, on behalf of the HSE, in a GP practice/private enterprise. The State Claims Agency provides indemnity for professional medical services which the RN/MP provides, whether his/her services are provided on site in a HSE facility (acute or secondary care) or in a private health service provider (e.g. GP Practice). GP practices or their indemnity/insurance providers for the practice are not required to extend cover to HSE employees in this regard. The RN/MP working in an integrated role remains indemnified at all times by the Clinical Indemnity Scheme for the provision of this integrated role.

Communication and Collaboration for RN/MPs working in Integrated Roles

Health service providers responsible for integrated care must employ a cohesive and collaborative proactive approach to determine and agree clinical governance.

The RN/MP should maintain on-going communication and collaboration with members of the multidisciplinary team in order to enhance therapeutic outcomes for patients/service users.

The individual RN/MP is professionally accountable for his/her prescribing decisions and practices. This encompasses the consultation and/or referral pathway when a patient's/service user's care extends beyond the RN/MP's scope of practice.

Conclusion

This document refers to the governance structures that must be in place to support the RN/MP working in an integrated role. The governance structures required for integrated care apply not only to prescriptive authority but to all aspects of care delivery, including professional responsibility and accountability regardless of whether the individual nurse or midwife is a RN/MP.

This guidance on governance was developed in collaboration with the State Claims Agency. This guidance on governance should be read in conjunction with the *Practice Standards and Guidelines for Nurses and Midwives with Prescriptive Authority* (NMBI, 2019), *Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework* (NMBI, 2015), *National Nurse and Midwife Medicinal Product Prescribing Guideline* (HSE, 2020).