

Fact Sheet: Information that Informs Competent Nursing Practice, 2026

Welcome to the NZNO Factsheet that provides guidance on where to find information relevant to nursing professional practice. This publication provides quick links to important information for nurses working in New Zealand.

NZNO, as a bicultural partner to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, acts to ensure the obligations of active protection are upheld and honoured through supporting ways that are culturally specific to enhancing and empowering identity. NZNO is an organisation that seeks to improve the health status of all people in Aotearoa New Zealand, through participation in health and social policy development. We share the intent of the Ministry of Health's definition of equity which equally applies to NZNO work across professional, industrial and member activities. Further ensuring standards of cultural safety through adopting culturally appropriate approaches that recognise Māori as tāngata whenua, and acknowledge the diversity of all cultural needs, and guarantees positive equitable outcomes.

Nursing Council of New Zealand

Nursing Council of NZ (NCNZ) - nursingcouncil.org.nz

- Nurses Code of Conduct (2012, under review) - [Code of Conduct](#)
- Scopes of practice, included standards of competence for:
 - Enrolled Nurses - [Enrolled nurse](#)
 - Registered Nurses - [Registered nurse](#)
 - Nurse Practitioners - [Nurse practitioner](#)
- Registered Nurse – Prescribing - [Nurse prescribing:](#)
 - Registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams - [Registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams](#)
 - Registered nurse prescribing in diabetes health - [Registered nurse prescribing in diabetes health](#)
 - Registered nurse prescribing in community health - [Registered nurse prescribing in community health](#)
- Decision-making process for expanding scope of registered nursing practice - [Decision-making process for expanding scope of registered nursing practice Nov 2010\(1\).pdf](#)
- Frequently asked questions - [FAQs changes to direction and delegation 2025.pdf](#)
- NCNZ Guidelines:
 - Social media and electronic Communications (2020) - [Guidelines Social Media.pdf](#)
 - Professional Boundaries - [Guidelines Prof Boundaries Booklet full.pdf](#)
 - Te Tiriti o Waitangi - [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](#)
 - NCNZ Guidelines: responsibilities for direction and delegation of care by RN to HCA (2011) - [nurse delegation RN.pdf](#)
 - Expanded practice for Registered Nurse (2011) Hei oranga motuhake mō ngā whānau, hapū, iwi. - [Expanded RN guidelines.pdf](#)

Legislation

This is some of the legislation that impacts nursing practice. This list is not exhaustive and further legislation can be located at [New Zealand Legislation](#).

- [Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 No 48 \(as at 15 June 2023\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
 - Provides a framework for the regulation of health practitioners in order to protect the public.
- [Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights — Health & Disability Commissioner](#)
 - Grants a number of rights to all consumers of health services in NZ and places corresponding obligations on providers of those services.
- [Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 No 116 \(as at 27 November 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- [Pae Ora \(Healthy Futures\) Act 2022 No 30 \(as at 25 October 2024\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- [Mental Health \(Compulsory Assessment and Treatment\) Act 1992 No 46 \(as at 26 January 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- [Privacy Act 2020 No 31 \(as at 27 November 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 No 70 \(as at 05 April 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- [Employment Relations Act 2000 No 24 \(as at 13 November 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)
- [Intellectual Disability \(Compulsory Care and Rehabilitation\) Act 2003 | New Zealand Legislation](#)
- NZNO - [Your workplace rights](#)

NZNO Publications and Resources

All publications can be accessed via the NZNO website - [Publications](#)

Guidelines:

- Guidelines for Nurses on the Administration of medicines
- Documentation
- Life Preserving Services
- Privacy, Confidentiality and Consent in Professional Development Activities
- Standing Orders
- Transcribing
- Managing Professional Ethical Issues
- Reflective Writing

Fact sheets:

- Competence reviews
- Investigations - Your Rights and Responsibilities
- Nursing Council of New Zealand versus NZNO - know the difference
- Regulated Health Professionals Working in Unregulated Roles
- Serious and sentinel events
- Understanding Duty of Care Mentoring, professional and clinical supervision, preceptorship and coaching

NZNO Practice Fact Sheet: Information that Informs Competent Nursing Practice, 2026
Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa: The New Zealand Nurses Organisation
www.nzno.org.nz

- NZNO code of ethics
- NZNO social media and the nursing profession Guideline
- Position statement Advanced Nursing Practice

Other Resources:

- [Report - NZNO Kaupapa Māori culturally safe staffing ratios, 2025.pdf](#)
- NZNO Specialty Colleges and Sections - [Colleges & Sections](#)

Date adopted: 2015

Review date: 2026

Reviewed by: Wendy Blair

Principal author: Anne Brinkman

Correspondence to: nurses@nzno.org.nz

Mission Statement

NZNO is committed to the representation of members and the promotion of nursing and midwifery. NZNO embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi and works to improve the health status of all peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand through participation in health and social policy development.

©2026 This material is copyright to Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa: The New Zealand Nurses Organisation Incorporated. Apart from fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced by any process, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the written permission of the Chief Executive of Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa: New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO), PO Box 2128, Wellington 6140.