

PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRACTICE

FACT SHEET SERIES



Continuing Professional Development

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is the purposeful maintenance and improvement of a professional's knowledge and skills to remain competent in their chosen profession for the benefit of themselves, their patients or clients and the wider profession. CPD is recognised as a commitment to being professional, keeping up to date and continuously seeking to improve.

CPD is intended to encourage the development of professionals so that they reflect on their practice and its quality, are able to adopt and assess new approaches to their practice and develop better ways of working as a result.

CPD acknowledges varying learning styles among professionals and includes a wide range of formal and informal learning activities.

The key principles behind CPD are that it:

- is self-directed;
- is based on learning needs identified by the individual;
- builds on an individual's existing knowledge and experience;
- links an individual's learning to their practice;
- includes an evaluation of the individual's development.

CPD requirements

Unlike many other countries and states and territories of Australia, New South Wales does not currently require nurses to provide evidence of completion of CPD activities for renewal of registration. Instead, in 2003 the Nurses and Midwives Board established the ANMC's Code of Professional Conduct as setting out guidelines that should be observed by nurses in their professional practice. The Code requires all nurses to maintain competence for current practice, including participation in ongoing professional development.

National registration for nurses will commence on 1 July 2010. Under the National Law, nurses will be required to declare that they have completed the CPD required by the National Board's registration standard during the preceding period of registration.

This standard is currently being developed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia in consultation with the profession¹. This fact sheet will be updated following finalisation of the national registration standard.

¹ Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/>