

Regulation of Nursing and Midwifery in Nepal



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Abstract

Nepal Nursing Council was formed under the Ministry of Health in 2052 BS. It is a legal body mandated and approved by Government of Nepal for the systematic regulation of the nursing profession in the country. For the purpose of proper operation of profession there are 11 board member nominated by Government authority and 4 member elected by member of Nursing Association. The council has formed code of conduct to run the profession smoothly so if any practitioner violated the ethical practice (misconduct). The council has right to investigate and if sanctioned for unprofessional conduct, the council can reprimand, admonish, probation, suspend or revoke the license.

Introduction

Nepal Nursing council (NNC) is a legal body mandated and approved by Government of Nepal for the systemic regulation of the nursing profession of the country. The council is an autonomous organization managed by an executive board consisting of license holder nurses. It has the scope of issuing license to nurses and midwives. In (1958 AD) Nursing council was formed under the Ministry of Health. At that time nursing education was run under the Ministry of Health and in 1972 along with other technical education nursing also came

under TU Institute of Medicine . At that time Then the need for a Nursing Council was not felt because the TU was the authoritative body of nursing education. So the Nursing Council ceased to work. When the nurse's graduate under the TU IOM could not get admission for Bachelor of Nursing in foreign countries without national professional council registration, Nursing Association of Nepal (NAN) initiated the revival of registration process and with great effort of NAN and senior nurses-NNC was established in 1952 BS (1996) and that came to be effective from 1953 BS.

Purpose and function of establishing a regulatory body

Purpose of regulation

- Protect the public from unsafe practice.
- Ensure quality of nursing service.
- Inform the public of what service to expect so that they can make choice.
- Foster the development of nursing profession.
- Confer accountability, identity and status to the professional practitioners.
- Promote socio-economic welfare to the professional practitioners.

Main Function

1. Set standards for entry to the profession.
2. Ensure maintenance of standards
3. Provide a mechanism for delivery with professional misconduct
4. Maintain an effective register of all those eligible to practice.

Power Function

To formulate the necessary policy for the proper regulation of the nursing profession.

1. To formulate the policy about the nursing education such as curriculum, entry criteria, examination system, infrastructure and evaluate and review and monitoring periodically.
2. To accreditate the curriculum of nursing programmes
4. To accreditate educational institutes that want to offer education related to nursing and midwifery.
5. To specify the qualification of the nursing/ midwifery professionals and to manage the registration of the name of the qualified nursing/ midwifery professionals and to issues license.
6. To avoid malpractice in the profession.

Executivcative Board (E.B.) consists of 15 members

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| 1. Chair Person or President | 1 |
| 2. Vice Chairman or Vice President | 1 |
| 3. Member nominated by Director General Department of Health Science. | 1 |
| 4. One person nominated by Health Ministry among the Matrons. | 1 |

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| 5. Chairman (President) Nepal Nursing Association | 1 |
| 6. Two persons nominated by Ministry of Health among Nursing Campus Campus Chief. | 2 |
| 7. Representative Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine. | 1 |
| 8. Three people elected by general member of Nursing Association.- | 3 |
| 9. Representative from CTEVT. | 1 |
| 10. Representative form consumer group. | 1 |
| 11. One person nominated by Regional Hospitals (Matrons) | 1 |
| 12. One person nominated by Ministry Health from among experienced and renowned nurses. | 1 |

Ministry of Health nominates one nurse as a registrar to work as a office secretary and there are 11 administrative staff working in council. All executive board member (Nursing Personnel) should have at least Bachelor Degree in nursing education. The tenure of the members elected and nominated are four years. They may be re-nominated or re-elected after completion of their tenure. If the post of any members falls or become vacant before completion of the his/her tenure another member shall be nominated or elected for the remaining period.

The process of formation of the council is different in different countries. For examples. Thailand nursing council has 22

nominated and 22 elected member excluding the registrar.

Disqualification for the E.B.Members

- Non-national citizen.
- Name removed from registration books.
- Declared bankrupt.
- Convicted by court in the criminal offense involving moral turpitude and has got punishment.
- Insane

Condition for termination of the EB. Members

1. Disqualified to be a member.
2. Resignation given from the post and approved.
3. Death of the E.B. member.
4. If a member remains absent continuously for more than three times in the meeting of the council without any notice.

Type of Membership

There are two types of members in NNC

1. Registered nurse - Diploma, Degree holder.
2. Axillary Nurse Midwife - (ANMS)

Registration and licensing of nurse/midwife

All the graduate from accredited nursing school who want to register her/his name get license and are eligible to register their name have to submit the documents. They set license for 6 years. The graduates need to take the license before starting their job. If the board

meeting is not possible the council gives temporary license for 3 month.

Renewal of license is made in every 6 years and the graduates have to submit education or service certificate for renewal of license (NNC).

Standard and quality control of education and practice

One of the main functions of nursing council is to maintain the quality of nursing and midwifery education. The council should play a role in setting standards for education, educational institute and curriculum, setting and implementing guidelines for opening of new school, and accreditation of educational institutes periodically. Council should be authorized to carry out its full functions and be respected by the government and other professional bodies.

Educational institute should develop their own policies and mechanisms to adhere to government policies and actively implement quality assurance systems with continuing monitoring and evaluation. The nursing and midwifery services (Practice Site) should provide feedback to educational institutions for improvement and work in collaboration with them to produce the desired nursing and midwifery workforce. Most important, the collaboration of all members in each related sector is required for an optimum outcome.

To maintain standards, nurse/midwife need to

- Have adequate opportunities for practice, in order to develop her clinical skills

- Update her knowledge and learn new skills
- Reflect on her practice regularly and learn from experience
- Understand and practice accountability to her clients

After the first amendment in N.NC Act 1996, NNC has power to conduct licensing examination and make provision about the validity of license. The validity of license is for a period of six years after the expiry of six years period such nursing and midwifery professional is supposed to apply for renewal and also make provision of separate midwifery education and practice. Quality nursing and midwifery education can be achieved through various mechanisms including the following activities:-

1. Establish a quality assurance system in Nursing and Midwifery Education Institute (NMEI).
2. Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Educational Institute (NMEI) by nursing and midwifery council.
 - a. Set standards for entering the profession.
 - b. Ensure maintenance of standards.
 - c. Provide mechanism for dealing the misconduct.

Code of Ethics for nurses and midwife in Nepal aim to make explicit the fundamental, moral commitment of the professionals, provide with a basis for ethical practice and to indicate to the community the values that nurses hold.

The following statement and code of conduct represents the moral and ideas of the

profession and is regarded as central to ethical nursing. The four broad value statements are:-

1. Respect life and improve quality of life.
2. Respect individual right and dignity.
3. Be responsible to society and work towards a healthy community through partnership
4. Strive for excellence and assure quality of care

The code of professional conduct for nurses and midwife have following aspects of professional conduct that nurses are to comply while in discharging their professional duties. The explanatory statements provide guide lines regarding the way each aspect of professional conduct is to be enacted in practice situations. Each nurse shall act at all the time in such a manner as to;

1. Respect the dignity, uniqueness, value, culture and beliefs of patient/clients and their families in the provision of nursing care.
2. Hold in confidence personal information obtained in a professional capacity.
3. Safeguard informed decision making and the wellbeing of patients/clients in the provision of care
4. Provide safe and competent nursing care.
5. Maintain the agreed standards of practice.
6. Foster the trust that is inherent in the privileged relationship between nurses and their patients/clients.

7. Uphold the image of nurses and profession by refusing advantages.
8. Practice in accordance with the law of Government relevant to the area of nursing practice.

Ethics and Disciplinary Action

Any person who has suffered damage as a result of a violation of ethical practice has a right to make allegation against the person who has caused the damage by submitting a complaint to the council. The council should appoint a subcommittee to investigate the case and submit the report to the council. The board of the council will finalize the case. For the sanction of unprofessional conduct the council can reprimand, admonish probation, suspend or revoke the license.

Issues and challenges (NNC)

1. NNC has not been able to start licensing examination.
2. Over politicalization of council, each time there is political change in the Ministry of Health (Minister), there is threat of change of nominated executive board member over NNC.
 - a. Problem related to political, economic and commercial issues resulting in proliferation of institute dilute the quality of education and service.
3. Problems in recognition, equivalency and reciprocity, because of limited control & non uniformity in educational institutions.

- a. Many Nursing Institute (Mushrooming) in relation to practice areas(Limited practice areas)
4. NNC not only concentrates on educational service site. There are quality control problem in service areas
 - a. Less co-ordination between educational site and service site
 - b. Non uniformity and problem in recognition and monitoring
 - c. Council has so far regulatory nursing educational standard but not developed nursing practice standards
5. Council has so far not started any work in relation to midwifery education and practice standard

Former president(Chair person) of NNC

(From the year of establishment till date)

- Prof Dr. Uma Devi Das 2053-2061 BS
- Ms Tara Bhusal(Pokhrel) 2061-2063 BS
- Mrs Daya Laxmi Joshi Vaidya 2063-2066 BS
- Ms Krishna Prajapati 2066 till date

Reference:

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- MOHP. (2052). Nepal Nursing Act, Kathmandu: The Author