



## SINGAPORE NURSING BOARD

### SCOPE OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING AND MIDWIFERY PRACTICE

#### **Advanced Practice Nurse**

The scope of practice of an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) entails the acquisition of expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice, applied in the clinical context in which she/he is certified to practise.

The Singapore Nursing Board's Core Competencies for APN (SNB 2018) describe the roles, activities, responsibilities and competencies of the APN, including supervision of and delegation to Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses and other support staff.

She/he is accountable for ensuring that her/his nursing practice meets legislative, regulatory and institutional requirements and is in line with her professional preparation.

The APN is responsible for maintaining her/his own continuing professional education and continuing competency.

#### **Registered Nurse**

The scope of practice of a Registered Nurse (RN) is the range of functions, responsibilities, activities and decision-making that the RN is authorized to perform to fulfil a required role, the extent of which is determined by the RN's education, and competency.

The Singapore Nursing Board's Core Competencies and Generic Skills for RN (SNB 2018) describe the roles, activities, responsibilities and competencies of the RN, including supervision of and delegation to Enrolled Nurses and other support staff.

While a RN may practice in any setting, she/he is accountable for ensuring that her/his nursing practice meets legislative, regulatory and institutional requirements and is in line with her professional preparation.

The RN may take on an expanded role where appropriate and is responsible for his/her own continuing professional education and continuing competency.



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#### **Enrolled Nurse**

The scope of practice of an Enrolled Nurse (EN) is the range of activities and clinical nursing decisions that the EN is educated and competent to perform.

The EN is authorized to carry out nursing assignments under delegation, supervision or direction of a Registered Nurse, Advanced Practice Nurse and/or medical doctor. The scope of practice of the EN is a dependent and directed scope of practice.

The Singapore Nursing Board's Core Competencies and Generic Skills for EN (SNB 2018) describe the roles, activities, responsibilities and competencies of the EN.

While an EN may practice in any setting, she/he is accountable for ensuring that her/his nursing practice meets legislative, regulatory and institutional requirements and is in line with her professional preparation.

The EN is responsible for maintaining her/his own continuing professional education and continuing competency.

#### **Registered Midwife**

The scope of practice of a Registered Midwife (RMW) is the range of activities and clinical decisions in midwifery practice that a RMW is educated, authorized and competent to perform.

The Core Competencies and Generic Skills of a Registered Midwife (SNB 2018) describe the roles, activities, responsibilities and competencies of the RMW.

The needs of the mother and infant are the primary focus of midwifery practice.

The RMW may practice in hospitals, clinics or homes, and is accountable that her midwifery practice meets legislative, regulatory and institutional requirements. The RMW practising independently is not permitted to conduct home births.

The RMW is responsible for maintaining her/his own continuing professional education and continuing competency.



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#### **Registered Nurse (Psychiatric)**

The scope of practice of a Registered Nurse (Psychiatric) (RNP) is the range of functions, responsibilities, activities and decision-making that the RNP is authorized to perform to fulfil a required role, the extent of which is determined by the RNP's education, competency and experience.

The Singapore Nursing Board's Core Competencies and Generic Skills for RNP (SNB 2019) describe the roles, activities, responsibilities and competencies of the RNP, including supervision of and delegation to Enrolled Nurses and other support staff.

The applications of psychiatric nursing knowledge, skills and judgment in the promotion of mental health, in collaboration with individuals, families, groups and communities, are the key focus of psychiatric nursing practice.

While a RNP may practice across a range of settings, she/he is accountable for ensuring that her/his nursing practice meets legislative, regulatory and institutional requirements and is in line with her/his professional preparation.

The RNP is responsible for her / his own continuing professional education and continuing competency.

#### **References**

Nurses and Midwives Act, Cap 209. (2012 Revised edition) Singapore.

Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) (2018). Core Competencies and Generic Skills of Advanced Practice Nurse. Singapore: SNB.

Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) (2018). Core Competencies and Generic Skills of Enrolled Nurse. Singapore: SNB.

Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) (2018). Core Competencies and Generic Skills of Registered Nurse. Singapore: SNB.

Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) (2018). Core Competencies and Generic Skills for Registered Midwife. Singapore: SNB.

Singapore Nursing Board (SNB) (2019). Core Competencies and Generic Skills of Registered Nurse (Psychiatric)



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**Glossary of Terms**

Appropriate	Matching the circumstances of a situation or meeting the healthcare needs of clients
Authorized	Certified, registered or otherwise permitted to perform a competency, task or action by the Singapore Nursing Board or by a duly authorized entity or person.
Competent	Being able to demonstrate the necessary ability, knowledge, skills and aptitude across the domains of competencies at a standard that is determined to be appropriate for that level at which a nurse is being assessed.
Competence	The ability of a nurse to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, judgment and attitude required to perform activities within the defined scope of practice at an acceptable level of proficiency.
Continuing Competency	Developing practice through continuing education, experience and ongoing competence development
Directed	Under guidance and supervision
Expanded role	Expanding the boundaries of nursing/midwifery practice outside the circumscribed scope of practice in response to a changing healthcare need. The primary motivation is to meet the client/s' healthcare needs or to enhance healthcare outcomes. Expansion of the scope of practice is based on education preparation, appropriate consultation, planning and formal assessment of the nurse/midwife's competence to undertake the expanded role.
Institutional	Employing organization's policies and procedures that provide a safe environment for nurses/midwives to practice.
Regulatory	Process by which the education, registration and practice of nurses and midwives are governed through setting, monitoring and assessment of standards.
Setting	Type and place of practice.