Justice Health and
Forensic Mental Health Network

Justice Health NSW Policy

Advanced Practice Skills for Registered Nurses and Midwives

Issue Date: 17 February 2023

Together for Healthier Tomorrows

Advanced Practice Skills for Registered Nurses and Midwives

Policy Number 1.176

Policy Function Continuum of Care

Issue Date 17 February 2023

Next Review Date 17 February 2026

Risk Rating High

Summary This policy provides a framework for Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network (Justice Health NSW) registered nurses and midwives to be authorised to perform advanced practice skills. The policy aims to ensure evidence of advanced clinical training is recorded and applied in advanced procedures to ensure safe patient care.

Responsible Officer General Manager, Primary Care

Applies to

☐ Administration Centres
☐ Community Sites and programs
☒ Health Centres - Adult Correctional Centres or Police Cells
☒ Health Centres - Youth Justice Centres
☒ Long Bay Hospital
☒ Forensic Hospital

CM Reference POLJH/1176

Change summary Removed Nursing from advanced practice in title.

Authorised by Chair, Policy Steering Committee

Revision History

#	Issue Date	Number and Name	Change Summary
3	February 2023	1.176 Advanced Practice Skills for Registered Nurses and Midwives	• Removed Nursing from advanced practice in title.
2	May 2019	1.176 Advanced Practice Skills for Registered Nurses and Midwives	• Minor wording changes • Policy number is updated from 2.006 to 1.176
1	December 2017	2.006 Advanced Practice Skills for Registered Nurses and Midwives	• New Policy

PRINT WARNING

Printed copies of this document, or parts thereof, must not be relied on as a current reference document.

Always refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.

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1. Preface

The policy ensures Justice Health NSW supports the delivery of advanced practice skills for registered nurses and midwives. The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) defines Advanced Practice as 'practice includes relevant expertise, critical thinking, complex decision-making, autonomous practice and is effective and safe (NMBA.2020).

The NMBA advises that advanced practice is a level of practice and not a role. This is to distinguish it from the role of a Nurse Practitioner and is defined by a recognisably higher level of nursing, in regard to professional knowledge, clinical reasoning and judgement, skills and behaviours.

2. Policy Content

2.1 Mandatory Requirements

Advanced clinical practice within Justice Health NSW covers the following provisions and requirements:

- Registered nurses and midwives' scope of advanced practice is limited to procedures authorised by the Justice Health NSW working Leadership Committee.
- Authority to perform endorsed advanced practice skills is only permitted for registered nurses and midwives currently employed within Justice Health NSW.
- Registered nurses and midwives with external advanced nursing or midwifery qualifications will be required to submit evidence of competency and currency for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). This will be reviewed and when the approval process is complete, the applicant will gain permission to practice these skills and procedures within Justice Health NSW. Ongoing performance plan will assess clinician's ongoing competency to continue practising this skill within Justice Health NSW.
- Line Managers must ensure their employees continue to meet the requirements to continue practicing their advanced skills annually during their performance review.
- To achieve proof of competency registered nurses and midwives must complete the processes as outlined for RPL, if offered, for each authorised procedure.

Women's Health Advanced Nursing Practice Skills for Registered Nurses have been prepared and authorised by the Clinical Operations Committee. Each document covers the requirements for each advanced nursing practice procedure. Accredited staff must adhere to the guidelines, policy and procedures to ensure patient safety and best practice outcomes.

2.2 Implementation – Roles & Responsibilities

2.2.1 Managers

- Provide opportunity for staff to develop or maintain advanced practice skills with support to attend relevant education.
- Provide appropriate tools and resources to enable staff to perform advanced practice skills as required when caring for patients.

- Record evidence of initial accreditation and reaccreditation, as required, in the advanced practice skill/s, in the staff member's personnel file.
- Ensure that the skill capacity in staff for advanced practice procedures is kept current to enable safe, consistent and timely care for patients to enable safe, consistent and timely care for patients.

2.2.2 Registered Nurses and Midwives

- Must work within their own advanced scope of practice and maintain their advanced practice skills with ongoing professional development.
- Must comply with relevant Justice Health NSW policy, procedure and guidelines including currency of practice requirements.

3. Procedure Content

This policy is an overarching framework covering guidelines and procedures that support ongoing advanced practice skills performed by registered nurses and midwives working within Justice Health NSW. Each approved advanced practice skill for registered nurses and midwives guideline or protocol will be placed on the intranet under the following link: Advanced Nursing Practice Skills for Registered Nurses and Midwives.

4. Definitions

Must

Indicates a mandatory action to be complied with.

Should

Indicates a recommended action to be complied with unless there are sound reasons for taking a different course of action.

5. Related Documents

Legislations	
Justice Health NSW Policies, Guidelines and Procedures	*Adult Urinary Catheterisation LBH Guidelines* *Women's Health Advanced Nursing Practice Skills for Registered Nurses* *Ear Irrigation Procedure LBH*
Justice Health NSW Forms	

NSW Health Policy Directives and Guidelines	
Other documents and resources	*Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia: Advanced nursing practice and speciality areas within nursing – May 2020* *Urinary Tract Infections in Adults*