

18 April 2012

Dear General Practitioner,

Registration of GP practice nurses.

We know that many of the services which general practices provide are dependent for their delivery upon registered nurses.

As Chairs of the General Practitioners Committee (GPC), Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), we are writing to remind you that nurses cannot legally practise in the UK unless they are registered with the NMC, the nursing and midwifery regulator for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Nurses may be liable to prosecution for claiming to be registered when they are not and practices which do not perform the required checks may find themselves facing contract sanctions.

Practices must ensure that anyone appointed to a nursing post holds the necessary qualifications and effective registration with the NMC before commencing that employment. In addition, nurses may hold recordable qualifications, for example, allowing them to prescribe, and such qualifications should also be checked against the NMC register.

The NMC offers a free confirmation service that allows employers to check nurses' current registration status and details of any conditions of practice, cautions or suspensions issued as a result of fitness to practise proceedings. It is vital that practices use this, and do not rely on a nurse providing a Pin or any NMC paperwork bearing a Pin, as proof of registration. Any discrepancies or fraudulent activity should be reported to the NMC.

23 Portland Place, London W1B 1PZ
T +44 20 7637 7181 F +44 20 7436 2924
www.nmc-uk.org

The nursing and midwifery regulator for England,
Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Islands

Registered charity in England and Wales (1091434) and in Scotland (SC038362)

To find out more about this service, or to register as an employer, visit the employers confirmation service section at www.nmc-uk.org/Employer-confirmations or call 020 7333 9333.

Yours sincerely



Laurence Buckman
Chairman, General
Practitioners Committee
British Medical Association



Dr Clare Gerada MBE FRCP
FRCGP FRCPsych
Chair of Council
Royal College of GPs



Professor Judith Ellis MBE
Interim Chair
Nursing and Midwifery Council