

# NURSING ASSOCIATE LEVEL 4 &5

**Overview of the role: Providing care for people of all ages and from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs**

## Details of standard

### Occupation summary

This is a new occupation, introduced into the health and care workforce to bridge the gap between health and care assistants and registered nurses. Nursing associate is a stand-alone role that will also provide a progression route into graduate level nursing. It's intended that the role will enable registered nurses to focus on more complex clinical duties. Nursing associates work in the public, independent and voluntary sectors and it is a statutorily regulated profession. The standards for proficiency are set by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Successful completion of this apprenticeship will meet the education requirements for registration with the NMC. This standard covers the NMC Standards for Proficiency and Annexes A & B for nursing associates (October 2018).

The broad purpose of the occupation is to provide care for people of all ages and from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. Nursing associates may provide care for people who have mental, physical, cognitive and behavioural care needs. They may provide care for people in their own home, in the community or hospital or in any health care settings where their needs are supported and managed. Nursing associates work in the context of continual change, challenging environments, different models of care delivery, shifting demographics, innovation and rapidly evolving technologies. Increasing integration of health and social care services will require nursing associates to play an active role in multidisciplinary teams.

Nursing associates contribute to the promotion of health, health protection and the prevention of ill health. They do this by empowering people and communities to exercise choice, take control of their own health decisions and behaviours and by supporting people to manage their own care where possible. In their daily work, an employee in this occupation interacts with a variety of service users, families and carers, and with an extensive range of health and care professionals and other agencies including social services, police, probation, prisons, housing, education, language interpreters and third sector agencies. They might be working in a health, social care or public health provider and may work various shift patterns which enable care to be provided 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days of the year. This is a new role and it is expected that nursing associates will become a key part of the team to meet the integrated health and care needs of patients and service users.

An employee in this occupation will be responsible for providing care for people of all ages and from different backgrounds, cultures and beliefs. They must be able to care for people in their own home, in the community or hospital or in any care settings where their needs are supported and managed. All nursing associates will work as part of a team but on a day to day basis they may be working alone when seeing people in their own homes or in the community. They work in the context of continual change, challenging environments, different models of care delivery, an older and more diverse population, innovation and rapidly evolving technologies. Increasing integration of health and social care services will require nursing associates to negotiate boundaries and play an important role in multidisciplinary teams. The confidence to apply knowledge and skills and provide evidence based, direct nursing care therefore lies at the centre of all nursing associate practice.

Nursing associates must be emotionally intelligent and resilient individuals, able to manage their own personal health and well-being, recognise boundaries of their practice and know when and how to access support.

### Typical job titles

Typical job titles include nursing associate. Nursing associate is a protected title and may only be used by someone on the Nursing and Midwifery Council register.

### Entry requirements

The Nursing and Midwifery Council stipulate selection, admission and progression requirements for entry to approved nursing associate programmes. The requirements can be seen in

<https://www.nmc.org.uk/globalassets/sitedocuments/education-standards/nursing-associates-programme-standards.pdf>

### Occupation duties

#### Duty

#### KSBs

**Duty 1** Be an accountable professional, acting in the best interests of people, putting them first and providing nursing care that is person-centred, safe and compassionate

K1 K2 K3 K4 K5  
S1 S2 S3 S4 S5 S6  
B1 B2 B3

**Duty 2** Communicate effectively, recognising and working within the limits of competence and being responsible for their own actions

K6 K7 K8  
S5 S7 S8 S9 S10 S11 S12  
B1 B2 B3

**Duty 3** Promote health and prevent ill health to improve and maintain the mental, physical, behavioural health and well-being of people, families, carers and communities

K9 K10 K11 K12 K13  
K14  
S13 S14 S15 S16 S17  
B1 B2 B3

**Duty 4** Contribute to the ongoing assessment of

K15 K16 K17 K18 K19

individuals nursing care needs, recognising when it is appropriate to refer to others for reassessment	S18 S19 S20 B1 B2 B3
<b>Duty 5</b> Provide and monitor nursing care to individuals and groups, providing compassionate and safe nursing interventions	K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 S5 S21 S22 S23 S24 S25 S26 S27 S28 S29 S30 S31 S32 B1 B2 B3
<b>Duty 6</b> Improve safety of individuals by identifying risks to safety or experience of care and taking appropriate action, putting the best interests, needs and preferences of people first	K30 K32 K35 S33 S34 S35 S36 B1 B2 B3
<b>Duty 7</b> Improve quality of care by contributing to the continuous monitoring of people's experience of care	K31 K33 K34 S37 B1 B2 B3
<b>Duty 8</b> Contribute to the provision of complex nursing and integrated care needs of people at any stage of their lives, across a range of organisations and settings	K36 K37 K38 K39 K40 K41 S38 S39 S40 B1 B2 B3
<b>Duty 9</b> Work in teams collaborating effectively with a range of colleagues	K42 K43 S43 S44 B1 B2 B3
<b>Duty 10</b> Support and supervise others in the care team	K6 K42 S38 S41 S42 B1 B2 B3

## KSBs

### Knowledge

**K1:** Understand the Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates (NMC, 2018), and how to fulfill all registration requirements

**K2:** Understand the demands of professional practice and demonstrate how to recognise signs of vulnerability in themselves or their colleagues and the action required to minimise risks to health

**K3:** Understand the professional responsibility to adopt a healthy lifestyle to maintain the level of personal fitness and well-being required to meet people's needs for mental and physical care

**K4:** Understand the principles of research and how research findings are used to inform evidence-based practice

**K5:** Understand the meaning of resilience and emotional intelligence, and their influence on an individual's ability to provide care

- K6:** Understand and apply relevant legal, regulatory and governance requirements, policies, and ethical frameworks, including any mandatory reporting duties, to all areas of practice
- K7:** Understand the importance of courage and transparency and apply the Duty of Candour
- K8:** Understand how discriminatory behaviour is exhibited
- K9:** Understand the aims and principles of health promotion, protection and improvement and the prevention of ill health when engaging with people
- K10:** Understand the principles of epidemiology, demography, and genomics and how these may influence health and well-being outcomes
- K11:** Understand the factors that may lead to inequalities in health outcomes
- K12:** Understand the importance of early years and childhood experiences and the possible impact on life choices, mental, physical and behavioural health and well-being
- K13:** Understand the contribution of social influences, health literacy, individual circumstances, behaviours and lifestyle choices to mental, physical and behavioural health outcomes
- K14:** Understand the importance of health screening
- K15:** Understand human development from conception to death, to enable delivery of person-centred safe and effective care
- K16:** Understand body systems and homeostasis, human anatomy and physiology, biology, genomics, pharmacology, social and behavioural sciences as applied to delivery of care
- K17:** Understand commonly encountered mental, physical, behavioural and cognitive health conditions as applied to delivery of care
- K18:** Understand and apply the principles and processes for making reasonable adjustments
- K19:** Know how and when to escalate to the appropriate professional for expert help and advice
- K20:** Know how people's needs for safety, dignity, privacy, comfort and sleep can be met
- K21:** Understand co-morbidities and the demands of meeting people's holistic needs when prioritising care
- K22:** Know how to meet people's needs related to nutrition, hydration and bladder and bowel health
- K23:** Know how to meet people's needs related to mobility, hygiene, oral care, wound care and skin integrity
- K24:** Know how to support people with commonly encountered symptoms including anxiety, confusion, discomfort and pain
- K25:** Know how to deliver sensitive and compassionate end of life care to support people to plan for their end of life
- K26:** Understand where and how to seek guidance and support from others to ensure that the best interests of those receiving care are upheld
- K27:** Understand the principles of safe and effective administration and optimisation of medicines in accordance with local and national policies
- K28:** Understand the effects of medicines, allergies, drug sensitivity, side effects, contraindications and adverse reactions
- K29:** Understand the different ways by which medicines can be prescribed

- K30:** Understand the principles of health and safety legislation and regulations and maintain safe work and care environments
- K31:** Understand how inadequate staffing levels impact on the ability to provide safe care and escalate concerns appropriately
- K32:** Understand what constitutes a near miss, a serious adverse event, a critical incident and a major incident
- K33:** Understand when to seek appropriate advice to manage a risk and avoid compromising quality of care and health outcomes
- K34:** Know and understand strategies to develop resilience in self and know how to seek support to help deal with uncertain situations
- K35:** Understand own role and the roles of all other staff at different levels of experience and seniority in the event of a major incident
- K36:** Understand the roles of the different providers of health and care
- K37:** Understand the challenges of providing safe nursing care for people with complex co-morbidities and complex care needs
- K38:** Understand the complexities of providing mental, cognitive, behavioural and physical care needs across a wide range of integrated care settings
- K39:** Understand the principles and processes involved in supporting people and families with a range of care needs to maintain optimal independence and avoid unnecessary interventions and disruptions to their lives
- K40:** Understand own role and contribution when involved in the care of a person who is undergoing discharge or a transition of care between professionals, settings or services
- K41:** Know the roles, responsibilities and scope of practice of different members of the nursing and interdisciplinary team, and own role within it
- K42:** Understand and apply the principles of human factors and environmental factors when working in teams
- K43:** Understand the influence of policy and political drivers that impact health and care provision

## Skills

- S1** Act in accordance with the Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates (NMC, 2018), and fulfil all registration requirements
- S2** Keep complete, clear, accurate and timely records
- S3** Recognise and report any factors that may adversely impact safe and effective care provision
- S4** Take responsibility for continuous self-reflection, seeking and responding to support and feedback to develop professional knowledge and skills
- S5** Safely demonstrate evidence-based practice in all skills and procedures required for entry to the register: Standards of proficiency for nursing associates Annex A & B (NMC 2018)
- S6** Act as an ambassador for their profession and promote public confidence in health and care services
- S7** Communicate effectively using a range of skills and strategies with colleagues and people at all stages of life and with a range of mental, physical, cognitive and behavioural health challenges

- S8** Recognise signs of vulnerability in self or colleagues and the action required to minimise risks to health
- S9** Develop, manage and maintain appropriate relationships with people, their families, carers and colleagues
- S10** Provide, promote, and where appropriate advocate for, non-discriminatory, person-centred and sensitive care at all times, reflecting on people's values and beliefs, diverse backgrounds, cultural characteristics, language requirements, needs and preferences, taking account of any need for adjustments
- S11** Report any situations, behaviours or errors that could result in poor care outcomes
- S12** Challenge or report discriminatory behaviour
- S13** Apply the aims and principles of health promotion, protection and improvement and the prevention of ill health when engaging with people
- S14** Promote preventive health behaviours and provide information to support people to make informed choices to improve their mental, physical, behavioural health and wellbeing
- S15** Identify people who are eligible for health screening
- S16** Promote health and prevent ill health by understanding the evidence base for immunisation, vaccination and herd immunity
- S17** Protect health through understanding and applying the principles of infection prevention and control, including communicable disease surveillance and antimicrobial stewardship and resistance
- S18** Apply knowledge, communication and relationship management skills required to provide people, families and carers with accurate information that meets their needs before, during and after a range of interventions
- S19** Recognise when capacity has changed recognise and how a person's capacity affects their ability to make decisions about their own care and to give or withhold consent
- S20** Recognise people at risk of abuse, self-harm and/or suicidal ideation and the situations that may put them and others at risk
- S21** Monitor the effectiveness of care in partnership with people, families and carers, documenting progress and reporting outcomes
- S22** Take personal responsibility to ensure that relevant information is shared according to local policy and appropriate immediate action is taken to provide adequate safeguarding and that concerns are escalated
- S23** Work in partnership with people, to encourage shared decision making, in order to support individuals, their families and carers to manage their own care when appropriate
- S24** Perform a range of nursing procedures and manage devices, to meet people's need for safe, effective and person-centred care
- S25** Meet people's needs for safety, dignity, privacy, comfort and sleep
- S26** Meet people's needs related to nutrition, hydration and bladder and bowel health
- S27** Meet people's needs related to mobility, hygiene, oral care, wound care and skin integrity
- S28** Support people with commonly encountered symptoms including anxiety, confusion, discomfort and pain
- S29** Give information and support to people who are dying, their families and the bereaved and provide care to the deceased

- S30** Recognise when a person's condition has improved or deteriorated by undertaking health monitoring, interpreting, promptly responding, sharing findings and escalating as needed
- S31** Act in line with any end of life decisions and orders, organ and tissue donation protocols, infection protocols, advanced planning decisions, living wills and lasting powers of attorney for health
- S32** Work collaboratively and in partnership with professionals from different agencies in interdisciplinary teams
- S33** Maintain safe work and care environments
- S34** Act in line with local and national organisational frameworks, legislation and regulations to report risks, and implement actions as instructed, following up and escalating as required
- S35** Accurately undertake risk assessments, using contemporary assessment tools
- S36** Respond to and escalate potential hazards that may affect the safety of people
- S37** Participate in data collection to support audit activity, and contribute to the implementation of quality improvement strategies
- S38** Prioritise and manage own workload, and recognise where elements of care can safely be delegated to other colleagues, carers and family members
- S39** Recognise when people need help to facilitate equitable access to care, support and escalate concerns appropriately
- S40** Support and motivate other members of the care team and interact confidently with them
- S41** Monitor and review the quality of care delivered, providing challenge and constructive feedback when an aspect of care has been delegated to others
- S42** Support, supervise and act as a role model to nursing associate students, health care support workers and those new to care roles, review the quality of the care they provide, promoting reflection and providing constructive feedback
- S43** Contribute to team reflection activities to promote improvements in practice and services
- S44** Access, input, and apply information and data using a range of methods including digital technologies, and share appropriately within interdisciplinary teams

## Behaviour

- B1:** Treat people with dignity, respecting individual's diversity, beliefs, culture, needs, values, privacy and preferences
- B2:** Show respect and empathy for those you work with, have the courage to challenge areas of concern and work to evidence based best practice
- B3:** Be adaptable, reliable and consistent, show discretion, resilience and self-awareness

## Qualifications

### English and Maths qualifications

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to taking the End-Point Assessment. For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeship's English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3. A British Sign Language (BSL) qualification is an alternative to the English qualification for those whose primary language is BSL.

## Other qualifications

**Mandatory qualification 1: Foundation Degree approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council**

## Professional recognition

Nursing and Midwifery Council

## Additional details

Occupational Level: 5

Duration (months): 24

## Review

This standard will be reviewed after three years.

## Regulated Standard

This is a Regulated occupation.

## Regulator Body:

Nursing and Midwifery Council

Training provider must be approved by regulator body