

Unite Health Sector Briefing for members with problems related to third part registration with the Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC)

Recently several members have raised personal concerns regarding their registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). This relates to members who are registered on the third part of the register and who came from the second part of the register (registered midwives).

In December 2007 the NMC took the decision to change the rules regarding registration for registrants, so instead of just being able to register on part 3 (Specialist Community Public Health nurses) of the register they had to be registered also on part 1 (nurses) or part 2 (midwives). Further details can be gained from the Community Practitioner Journal (Volume 81, Number 1, January 2008, p. 4).

At the time, Unite/CPHVA raised its objections and concerns to this amendment, however as this amendment was passed, registrants must now register as set out above.

Members who are now re-registering are in the position where they have to complete their 'Intention to Practice' as midwives form, and get this endorsed by their local supervisor of midwives. All registrants must re-register every three years, but midwives must complete this form each year. We have had at least 2 reports where this has proven problematic.

On the NMC website there are now examples of how Specialist Community Public Health nurses, who are working as Health Visitors, can prove their competence for Midwifery PREP practice purposes to maintain midwifery registration (<http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=2912>). If supervisors of midwives are concerned, it would be helpful to share the link (and this briefing) with them.

We have contacted the NMC and highlighted the individual cases with them. They have confirmed that if individual registrants (both those wanting to re-register and supervisors of midwives) need further advice or want to discuss issues further, they can contact their professional advisory service on 020 7333 6551.

In cases highlighted so far, it has also been suggested that both universities and employers are concerned regarding the changes in NMC registration requirements. If members are having any local issues with employers or universities, please discuss with either your local work place representative (or if not available your regional office) and please encourage them to share this information with the professional officer team in the national health sector.

Unite Health Sector Professional Team August 2009

