

What is revalidation?

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is introducing a new system to renew your registration if you are a nurse or a midwife. The NMC says this is designed to show you are keeping up to date and can practise safely and effectively.

Revalidation will replace the current system known as PREP (post-registration and education practice). Some requirements will stay the same, others are new or will change.

It intends that the revalidation process aligns with the four themes in the new code of conduct (<http://www.nmc.org.uk/code/>):

- Prioritise people
- Practise effectively
- Preserve safety
- Promote professionalism and trust

What do I have to do?

The NMC has introduced a series of requirements that have been tested at pilot sites around the UK. The requirements are:

Practice hours

You must practice for a minimum of 450 hours over the three years preceding the date of your application for renewal of your registration. You must complete 900 hours if you are registered as both a nurse and a midwife.

Continuing professional development (CPD)

You must undertake 35 hours of CPD relevant to your scope of practice as a nurse or a midwife. Of these, 20 hours must be through 'participatory learning'. Participatory learning includes any learning activity in which you personally interact with other people. You must maintain accurate records of the CPD you have undertaken.

Practice-related feedback

You must obtain at least five pieces of practice-related feedback. This could be feedback from patients, service users, carers, students or colleagues.

Reflection and discussion

You must record a minimum of five written reflections on the NMC Code, and/or your CPD, and/or practice-related feedback. You must have a reflective discussion about these reflections with another nurse or midwife who is NMC-registered. You must ensure this other NMC registrant signs a form recording their name, NMC Pin, email and the date you had the discussion.

Health and character

You must provide a health and character declaration and you must declare if you have been convicted of any criminal offence or issued with a formal caution over three years prior to the renewal of your registration.

Professional indemnity

You must declare that you have appropriate cover under an indemnity arrangement (or will have when practising).

Confirmation from an appropriate confirmer

You will need to demonstrate to an appropriate confirmer that you have met the revalidation requirements. Usually this person will be your line manager and does not have to be an NMC registrant. If you do not have a line manager there are other ways to get this confirmation.

Portfolio

The NMC strongly recommends keeping evidence that you have met revalidation requirements in a portfolio. However, you must not record any information in the portfolio that will identify a patient, service user, colleague or any other individual, whether living or dead.

What happens when I need to apply for revalidation?

The NMC will notify you at least 60 days before your application for revalidation is due and you then have 60 days to log on to NMC Online to complete the application form. You will need supporting evidence from your portfolio to hand and you will need to pay your renewal fee. You do not need to send the NMC your portfolio.

Verification

The NMC will audit the revalidation process by selecting a sample of nurses and midwives to provide further information. This does not mean there are concerns about your application.

The NMC will contact you within 24 hours of you submitting your application if you have been selected. You will be given reasonable time to provide this further information.

The NMC will contact your confirmer to request further information, so make sure they are aware that if they do not respond to this request they may put your revalidation application at risk.

The NMC may also contact your employer and reflective discussion partner.

The verification process will be completed within three months of your renewal date.