

PE1602/B

NMC Submission

Submission to the Public Petitions Committee on the NMC's role in relation to petition PE1602

- 1 The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is grateful for the opportunity to comment on petition PE1602. Our role as the professional regulator includes setting standards of education, training, conduct and performance for nurses and midwives, though does not include setting clinical standards.
- 2 Our standards are all encompassing and high level, and we therefore do not take a view on the specific matter of the inclusion of ECGs and heart echo tests in pregnancy care for women. However, we hope it is helpful to set out our broader role in preserving the safety of those that use the services of midwives.

About the NMC

- 3 We regulate nurses and midwives in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. We exist to protect the public. We set standards of education, training, conduct and performance so that nurses and midwives can deliver high quality healthcare throughout their careers.
- 4 We make sure that nurses and midwives keep their skills and knowledge up to date and uphold our professional standards. We have clear and transparent processes to investigate nurses and midwives who fall short of our standards. We maintain a register of nurses and midwives allowed to practise in the UK.
- 5 As the regulator of nursing and midwifery in the UK, our role in education is to set the standards which shape the content and design of programmes and state the competences of a nurse and midwife, approve education institutions and maintain a database of approved programmes (courses) and deliver quality assurance of our approved programmes.

Midwifery professional standards

- 6 We set professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives, known as 'the Code'. We also set standards of pre-registration education that shape the content and design of education programmes and state the competencies a midwife must have at the point of registration. We approve programmes, which are delivered by approved education institutions. Such programmes must be designed to prepare students to practise safely and effectively so that, on registration, they can assume full responsibility and accountability for their practice as midwives.

- 7 The Code sets out that nurses and midwives must prioritise people, practise effectively, preserve safety and promote professionalism and trust. This includes practising in line with the best available evidence.
- 8 The *Standards for pre-registration midwifery education* that we set covers diagnosing pregnancy and assessing and monitoring women holistically throughout pregnancy and the postnatal period. They also cover providing seamless care and, where appropriate, interventions, as appropriate for the woman's assessed needs, promote their continuing health and wellbeing, are evidence based and are consistent with the management of risk.
- 9 We hope this provides reassurance that we take our duty to protect the public seriously, and work to ensure that nurses and midwives receive the appropriate education needed to qualify for the register and that they maintain their skills and knowledge to remain fit to practise.

For more information please contact the NMC

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