

The Approach:

The approach in this document uses a permissive approach to describe the scope of practice. According to Chiarella, 2002, permissive or client/patient focused approach is the preferred as client needs are considered and paramount.

Permissive approaches are less prescriptive and do not define boundaries around the scope of practice. It clearly transfer the accountability and responsibility for the professional practice from the regulatory body to the individual practitioner and employer. This approach allows for further development in the profession as it sets the basics for all other advance or specialist practice. Furthermore, as health knowledge and technology is evolving this approach allows periodic reviews and revision to ensure that it meets the healthcare demands and changes (ICN, 2021). The current scope of practice for nurses and is concurrent with the level of registration. It accommodates the existing regulatory structures for nurses practice, supports a flexible approach to expand on the level of practice, assist nurses to articulate their role, accountabilities and responsibilities, highlight the contribution that nurses make to safe and competent nursing care, assist to identify clinical decisions with the potential aspects of care to be made by qualified and licensed nurses, highlights aspects of appropriate delegation of activities to others.

Nursing scope of practice provides a framework and structured guidance for activities one can perform based on their nursing license. The Scope of Practice Statement is accompanied by the Standards of Professional Nursing Practice. The standards are authoritative statements of the duties that all registered nurses, regardless of role, population, or specialty, are expected to perform competently. The standards published herein may serve as evidence of the standard of care, with the understanding that application of the standards depends on context. The standards are subject to change with the dynamics of the nursing profession, as new evidence and patterns of professional practice are developed and accepted by the nursing profession and the public. In addition, specific conditions and clinical circumstances may also affect the application of the standards at a given time, e.g., during a natural disaster or epidemic where principles of nursing and midwife care that include, prioritisation, critical thinking and decision making ability, providing safe practice, and interdisciplinary collaboration are paramount (ANA, 2015).

Healthcare Organizations must establish processes, supports and resources such as policies, procedures, privileging system and decision and competency support tools to ensure that nurses and midwives meet the standards of practice set out by SCFHS Nursing and Midwifery Council.