

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

FOR PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE NURSES IN KENYA



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NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA- VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES



Our Vision

A world-class regulatory body in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



Our Mission

Develop standards, enforce regulations in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



Our Values

Our core values express that everything we do comes from deeply-held commitments and shared understanding of our values, what we stand for, how we treat each other and those we serve; that inform every policy and steer every action summarized as:

- I – Integrity:** We are committed to acting in an honest, accountable and transparent manner in all our undertakings.
- N – Nurture:** We value and nurture the strength of character it takes to work together as a team, to be an individual, to respect differences of opinions, and have the ability to empathize with others.
- S – Social responsibility:** Caring for the patient, family, community and the environment.
- P – Professionalism:** We are dedicated to the highest levels of achievement obtainable through competencies and critical skills.
- I – Innovation:** We thrive on creativity and ingenuity. We seek the innovations that are evidence-based and data-driven to bring a positive change to the Council.

- R – Responsiveness:** We act with a sense of urgency, make qualified decisions in time and provide fiscally responsible solutions.
- E – Excellence:** We pledge the highest levels of effectiveness and efficiency.

FOREWORD

The Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK) is established by an act of parliament, Nurses and Midwives Act CAP 257 to make provision for nursing education and practice to include specialized courses for nurses such as Pediatric critical care nursing. The nursing council ensures appropriate training, safe practice and quality health care services.

This is the first edition of the scope of practice for the pediatric critical care nurse. It spells out the extent of practice for this nursing specialty. While working in a multidisciplinary team, the pediatric critical care nurse has limits and freedom to practice within the stipulated guidelines as contained in this document.

This document was developed through a consultative process by stakeholders. It refers to vision 2030, the Kenya health policy 2012-2030, the Nurses Act Cap 257, the Nursing Council of Kenya Strategic Plan 2017-2022, scope of practice for Nurses and Midwives in Kenya- Entry level, 4th edition, Nursing Council of Kenya pediatric critical care nurse syllabus among others. It is envisaged to provide the basic minimum standards to guide the practice of pediatric critical care nurse in Kenya.

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INTRODUCTION

A child is a unique individual with special needs, rights and privileges and must therefore be accorded holistic and individualized care that incorporates their families in the care continuum, in order to meet their developmental needs.

Critically ill child is a unique individual requiring, or potentially requiring, high dependency or intensive care and should be accorded individualized holistic care. This is achieved by highly skilled professionals and the use of nursing care models that help meet their needs.

Atraumatic care principle should be applied to maximize comfort of a child, more so in a critical care environment where invasive interventions are inevitable.

This scope of practice delineates the range of interventions, roles and responsibilities that pediatric critical care nurses initiate and/or execute in their fields of practice subject to their levels of training.

The pediatric critical care nurse is expected to improve the level of care through evidence based clinical practice, and management of child acute care units, as well as strategic health care policies. The nurse undergoes specialized training at various levels to offer health care services for the reduction of child morbidity and mortality. S/he practices depending on the level of training with prescribed boundaries of professional responsibilities for accountability.

SECTION I: LEVELS OF QUALIFICATIONS OF A PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE NURSE

The following are the levels of qualifications for pediatric critical care nurses in Kenya captured in this document.

1. Higher diploma in pediatric critical care nursing
2. Post graduate diploma in pediatric critical care nursing
3. Master of Science in Nursing -pediatric critical care

1.1 Higher diploma in Pediatric Critical Care Nursing

This nurse has a higher diploma in Pediatric critical care Nursing. In addition to the scope of a Registered Nurse, these nurses have gained other competencies in line with this field of specialization.

1.2 Post-graduate Diploma in Pediatric Critical Nursing

A nurse at this level must have attained a bachelor's degree in nursing and post graduate diploma in pediatric nursing from an accredited institution of higher learning

1.3 Master of Science in Nursing - Pediatric Critical Care

The nurse at this level must have attained a Master of Science in Nursing with a specialization in pediatric critical care.

SECTION II: SPECIFIC SCOPES OF PRACTICE FOR PEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE NURSES

2.1 Higher diploma in pediatric critical care nursing

Applicability

This scope is applicable to nurses trained at Higher Diploma in Pediatric critical care nursing.

The nurse will: -

1. Perform comprehensive systemic health assessment on a critically ill child, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately.
2. Order, perform and interpret selected laboratory and diagnostic tests to make sound clinical decision/judgement in patient care as per the schedule of laboratory and diagnostic procedures in appendix I.
3. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as per schedule of specialized procedures in appendix II & III.
4. Provide advanced emergency care to the critically ill children in line with stipulated guidelines.
5. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to a critically ill child as per the drug schedule in appendix IV.
6. Prepare children for surgery and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.
7. Use appropriate and specified clinical pathways to diagnose and manage children with various critical conditions.
8. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary health team in admission, transfer and discharge of patients from pediatric critical care unit.
9. Participate in ethical decision making regarding pediatric care outcomes.
10. Facilitate rehabilitation for the critically ill child.

11. Participate in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to pediatric critical care services.
12. Provide clinical teaching and mentorship to multidisciplinary health team in the pediatric critical care unit.
13. Provide psychosocial support to individual patients, family, and community.
14. Manage pediatric critical care services at ward / unit level.
15. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving pediatric critical care services.
16. Participate in and utilize research findings to improve quality in pediatric critical care.

2.2 Post - graduate Diploma in Pediatric Critical Care Nursing

Applicability

This scope is applicable to persons trained in post-graduate diploma in pediatric critical care nursing.

The nurse will: -

1. Perform comprehensive health assessment on a critically ill child, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately.
2. Order, perform and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests to make sound clinical decision/judgement in patient care as per the schedule of laboratory and diagnostic procedures in Appendix I.
3. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as per schedule of specialized procedures in Appendix II & III.
4. Provide advanced emergency care to critically ill children in line with stipulated guidelines.
5. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines in Appendix IV.
6. Prepare children for surgery and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.
7. Using appropriate clinical pathways diagnose and manage children with various critical conditions
8. Participate in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes.

9. Facilitate rehabilitation of a critically ill child.
10. Develop and implement policies and guidelines that promote access to pediatric critical care services.
11. Provide psychosocial support to individual patients, family and community.
12. Manage critical care services at facilities as well as training institutions.
13. Implement curricula related to pediatric critical care at diploma and higher diploma level.
14. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving pediatric critical care services.
15. Conduct and utilize research findings in research to promote quality of care in pediatric critical care units.

2.3 Master of Science in Nursing- Pediatric Critical Care

Applicability

This scope is applicable to nurse specialists with advanced training and clinical competency in pediatrics critical care nursing at a Master's level.

The nurse will: -

1. Perform comprehensive health assessment on a critically ill child, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately.
2. Order, perform and interpret laboratory and diagnostic tests to make sound clinical decision/judgement in patient care as per the schedule of laboratory and diagnostic procedures as stipulated in Appendix I.
3. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as per schedule of specialized procedures in appendix II & III.
4. Provide advanced emergency care to critically ill children in line with stipulated guidelines.
5. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines as stipulated in Appendix IV.
6. Prepare children for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.

7. Using appropriate clinical pathways diagnose and manage children with various critical conditions.
8. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary health team in admission, transfer and discharge of patients from pediatric critical care unit.
9. Provide guidance in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes.
10. Facilitate rehabilitation of a critically ill child.
11. Provide consultancy on critically ill children.
12. Initiate, develop and evaluate policies and guidelines that promote access to pediatric critical care services.
13. Provide classroom and clinical teaching and mentorship to students and multidisciplinary health team.
14. Evaluate quality of care in the pediatric critical care units to inform quality improvement.
15. Provide psychosocial support to individual patients, family and community.
16. Manage pediatric critical care services at all levels of healthcare.
17. Implement curricula related to pediatric critical care at graduate and post graduate level.
18. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving pediatric critical care services.
19. Initiate, Conduct and utilize research findings in research to promote quality of care in pediatric critical care units.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Laboratory and Diagnostic Procedures

INVESTIGATIONS	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POSTGRADUAT E DIPLOMA	MASTER
ROUTINE TESTS			
Complete blood count (CBC)			
Arterial blood gas (ABG)			
Blood sugar (RBS/FBS)			
Urea/Electrolyte/Creatinine (U/E/C)			
BASED ON PATIENT NEEDS			
Coagulation profile (APTT, PTI)			
INR	C		
ECG			
Cardiac Triage (D-Dimers, Myoglobin, Troponin, CKMB, Pro BNP)			
Liver function tests (LFTs)			
Bilirubin Levels			
Lipid profile			
Cultures (Blood, Urine, tracheal aspirate)	C		
Procalcitonin			
C-Reactive protein (CRP)			
CSF studies			

INVESTIGATIONS	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA	MASTER
Pulmonary function test	C		
Urinalysis (Dip stick)			
Pregnancy test			
HIV test (antibody test)			
VDRL			
Hepatitis Antigen			
Gene expert	A		
Thyroid stimulating factor.			
Stool for ova, cyst	C		
Stool for H - pylori antigen test	C		
Hydrogen breath test			
Sickling test	C		
Cystic fibrosis Transmembrane conductance regulator		A	A
Guthrie (PKU) test	C	A	A
RADIOLOGICAL TESTS			
Chest X ray	C		
Echocardiogram (types)	A/C	A	A
Doppler/ Ultrasound	A/C	A /C	A/C

INVESTIGATIONS	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POSTGRADUAT E DIPLOMA	MASTER
Ct Scan	C	C	C

KEY

	Order, Perform, Interpret and Utilize
	Order, interpret and utilize
	Interpret and utilize
	Utilize
A	Additional training
C	In Consultation

Appendix II: Schedule for Medical and Surgical Procedures

The pediatric critical care nurse shall prescribe/perform procedures in line with the competencies, job description, institutional and national guidelines.

The pediatric critical care nurse will: -

1. In performing any medical/surgical procedures, keep to the fore the rights, needs and overall benefit to the child and the importance of promoting and maintaining the highest standards of quality in the health services.
2. Have attained the knowledge, intellectual capacities and acquired practice skills, required for overall safety of the patient.

3. Have the obligation to perform duties, tasks or roles using sound professional judgement and be answerable for the decisions made in doing this.
4. Justify their decisions in the context of evidence-based practice, professional standards and guidelines, and national policies, taking into account their level of experience and competence.
5. Ensure appropriate assessment, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the patient's condition and communicate appropriately.
6. Take into consideration the working environment which include the kind of service being offered and the complexity of care required by the patient.
7. Work in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team in identifying and managing risks, have effective communication and appropriate documentation which are essential elements in providing safe, quality health care to children.
8. In emergency and/or life threatening situations, take appropriate action at all times and the service given must regard the overall benefit to the child.

Appendix III: Schedule of Specialized procedures

SPECIALISED PROCEDURES	Higher Diploma	Postgraduate diploma	Master
Intra osseous insertion	A & C		
Endotracheal intubation			
Tracheostomy		A	A
Initiating respiratory support using invasive or non-invasive positive pressure ventilation			

SPECIALISED PROCEDURES	Higher Diploma	Postgraduate diploma	Master
Sampling blood from arterial line			
Extubation			
Initiate phototherapy while monitoring serum bilirubin levels			
Calculating the required kilocalories as per age and initiate enteral feeding	C	C	C
Initiate parenteral feeding where enteral feeding is not possible	C		
Pulmonary hygiene (endotracheal suction)			
Chest tube insertion			
Removal of a chest tube	A		
Hemodynamic monitoring: measurement and interpretation of central venous pressure (CVP), arterial blood pressure and intracranial pressure (ICP)		C	C
Taking and interpreting a 12 lead ECG rhythm			
Diagnose cardiac arrest and Initiating CPR			
Initiating cardiovascular support using fluid therapy and vasoactive agents			
Cardiac pacing and defibrillations			
Therapeutic Hypothermia			

SPECIALISED PROCEDURES	Higher Diploma	Postgraduate diploma	Master
Peritoneal dialysis			
Insertion of CVC, arterial line,	C		
Bronchoscopy			
Cardiac catheterization			
Peritoneal Dialysis catheter insertion		C	C
Exchange blood transfusion	C		
Trans pyloric nasogastric tube insertion	C		
Bone marrow aspirate	C		
Lumber puncture	C		
Pericardiocentesis, thoracentesis and paracentesis	C		

KEY

	Perform unassisted
	Perform with assistance
	Assist
A	Additional training
C	Consultation

Appendix IV: Drug List Scheduling Considerations

The nurse shall be guided by the following: -

1. Work to the extent of training and certification, i.e., Higher diploma, postgraduate, or master's level
2. Power to prescribe medications with different levels of Physician oversight: -
 - Restricted
 - Reduced restrictions
 - Full practice autonomy
3. Individual qualification, experience and competence: -

The pediatric critical care nurse shall prescribe/administer prescribed drugs & vaccines in line with the competencies, job description and institutional guidelines.

The pediatric critical care nurse shall prescribe &/or administer specific drugs in:

1. Consultation with the prescribing officer. The drugs shall be relevant to the ailment in question as per the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics principles.
2. Emergency situation where her/his decision shall result in saving the life of the patient.
3. Situations where a nurse is licensed as a private practitioner, working in a public / family/ or community setting and the patient's condition warrant so.
4. Circumstances where patient/client is bleeding and requires urgent intervention to save life, the pediatric critical care nurse shall prescribe and administer intravenous fluids, blood and blood products to stabilize the patient.
5. Cases where a child with mental health challenges is in danger, or endangers the lives of others.
6. A case where a prescription has been given by the relevant prescribing officer.

7. Scenarios where a pediatrics critical care nurse is working in level 3 facilities and below.

Medications that can be prescribed and administered by a pediatric critical care nurse.

1. Anti- seizure/ Anticonvulsants
2. Pain management
3. Relief of fever
4. Management of shock syndromes
5. Anti-dysrhythmias
6. Electrolyte imbalance
7. Fluid
8. Blood and blood products
9. Antibiotics

Appendix V: Comparative Table: Pediatric Critical Care Scope of Practice

Higher diploma	Post graduate diploma	Master's
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform comprehensive systemic health assessment on a critically ill child, recognize deviations and intervene appropriately. 2. Order, perform and interpret selected laboratory and diagnostic tests to make sound clinical decision/judgement in patient care as per the schedule of laboratory and diagnostic procedures in appendix I. 3. Prescribe and perform selected medical surgical procedures as per schedule of specialized procedures in appendix II & III. 4. Provide advanced emergency care to the critically ill children in line with stipulated guidelines. 5. Prescribe selected drugs and administer any other prescribed medication to a critically ill child as per the drug schedule in appendix IV. 6. Prepare children for surgery and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care. 7. Use appropriate and specified clinical pathways to diagnose and manage 	<p>In addition to the scope of practice of the higher diploma in paediatric critical care post graduate will: -</p>	<p>In addition to the scope of practice of the post graduate diploma in paediatric critical care the master will: -</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement policies and guidelines that promote access to paediatric critical care services 2. Provide classroom and clinical teaching and mentorship to students and multidisciplinary health team 3. Assume management and leadership roles in paediatric critical care 4. Conduct and utilize research findings to improve paediatric critical care services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate rehabilitation of a critically ill child 2. Provide consultancy to critically ill children 3. Develop, direct and evaluate policies and guidelines that promote access to paediatric critical care services 4. Provide classroom and clinical teaching and mentorship to students and multidisciplinary health team 5. Assume management and

<p>children with various critical conditions.</p> <p>8. Collaborate with the multidisciplinary health team in admission, transfer and discharge of patients from pediatric critical care unit.</p> <p>9. Participate in ethical decision making regarding pediatric care outcomes</p> <p>10. Facilitate rehabilitation for the critically ill child.</p> <p>11. Participate in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to paediatric critical care services.</p> <p>12. Provide clinical teaching and mentorship to multidisciplinary health team in the paediatric critical care unit</p> <p>13. Assume management and leadership roles in paediatric critical care unit</p> <p>14. Participate in and utilize research findings to improve paediatric critical care</p>		<p>leadership roles in health care</p> <p>6. Conduct research, utilize the results and disseminates findings at the local, national and international level</p>
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Atraumatic care

Provision of medical care in an environment, and through the use of interventions that minimizes or eliminates any experience of physical and psychological discomfort experienced by children and their families in health care settings.

Advanced emergency care

Resuscitative stabilization and treatment of medical and traumatic events

Child

It refers to an infant, toddler, pre-schooler, school-age and adolescent person.

Critically ill child

Critically ill child is a unique individual requiring, or potentially requiring, high dependency or intensive care whether medically, surgically or trauma that should be accorded individualized holistic -centered care.

Family centred care

This is a mutually beneficial partnership between the health care provider, patients and families in health care planning, delivery and evaluation. It creates an enabling and empowering environment for both the child and the family.

Family

It refers to family of origin or significant others and surrogate decision-makers.

Pediatric critical care unit

It is a unit in a hospital where comprehensive care of a critically ill child is continuously carried out.

Pediatric Critical Care Nursing

It refers to those comprehensive specialized and individualized nursing care services which are rendered to pediatrics with life threatening conditions and their families.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABG	Arterial Blood Gas
APTT	Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time
CBC	Complete Blood Count
CKMB	Creatinine Kinase Muscle Type and Brain Type
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CRP	C-Reactive Protein
CSF	Cerebrospinal Fluid
CSF	Cerebrospinal Fluid
Ct Scan	Computerized Tomography Scan
CVC	Central Venous Catheter
CVP	Central Venous Pressure
DSE	Discipline Standards and Compliance
ECG	Electrocardiogram
FBS	Fasting Blood Sugar
ICP	Intracranial Pressure
INR	International Normalized Ratio
KPCCN	Kenya Pediatric Critical Care Nurse
LFTs	Liver Function Tests
LFTs	Liver Function Tests
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PKU	Phenylketonuria
Pro BNP	Brain Type Natriuretic Peptide
PTI	Prothrombin Time Index
RBS	Random Blood Sugar
U/E/C	Urea/Electrolyte/Creatinine
VDRL	Venereal Disease Research Laboratory

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