

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

FOR PAEDIATRIC NURSES
IN KENYA



MAY 2022



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FOR PAEDIATRIC NURSES
IN KENYA

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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:

Inspire

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 is a regulatory body established by an Act of Parliament to make provision for nursing education and practice. The Council endeavors in its corporate responsibility to be a world-class regulator, providing best practice

to be emulated by the region and beyond. Similarly, the mission of the Council is to ensure the provision of quality nurse training and maintenance of professional nursing practice through research and appropriate regulations. In order to fulfill its vision and mission, the Council develops and reviews regulatory tools like the scope of practice to provide a practice framework that is in tandem with current needs, demands and context of the health care system.

This Scope of Practice document describes the range of interests, capabilities and professional activities of paediatric nurses in Kenya. It considers nurses as independent practitioners and provides examples of settings in which they are engaged. It is not intended to exclude the participation in



activities outside of those delineated in the document. The overriding principle is that members of the nursing profession will provide only those services for which they are adequately prepared through their training and experience, and that their practice is consistent with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Nurses.

This document was developed through a consultative process by key stakeholders from various health institutions. It refers to various documents including the Nurses and Midwives Act CAP 257, NCK Strategic plan 2017-2022 and Scope of practice for Nurses and Midwives in Kenya- Entry level (current) among others.

The document elaborates on the scopes for all levels of paediatric nurses in the country and can be applied in all paediatric health care settings.

Prof. Eunice Ndirangu- Mugo

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NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ABG	Arterial Blood Gas
APTT	Activated Partial Thromboplastin Time
CBC	Complete Blood Count
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CKMB	Creatinine Kinase Muscle Type and Brain Type
CPAP	Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
CRP	C-Reactive Protein
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
LFTs	Liver Function Tests
NGT	Nasogastric Tube Feeding
OGT	Oral Gastric Tube
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction



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

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Scope of Practice

The purpose of this scope is to define the profession of paediatric nursing by its scope of practice. It outlines those activities that are within the expertise of paediatric nurses. It is intended for use by nurses, other healthcare professionals, consumers of nursing services, and the general public. It serves as a reference for issues of service delivery, healthcare consumers' education, nursing regulatory activities, and inter-professional relations.


1.2 Levels of Paediatric Nursing Preparation in Kenya

1.2.1 Higher Diploma in Paediatric Nursing (KRPaedN)

In this category of nursing the nurse has a post-basic diploma in paediatric nursing. In addition to the scope of a general registered nurse, these nurses have other competencies which are in line with their field of specialization.

1.2.2 Post-Graduate Diploma in Paediatric Nursing

In this category of nursing the nurse has a post-graduate diploma in paediatric nursing. In addition to the scope of a general registered nurse (BScN) with or without a Higher



diploma in paediatric), these nurses have other competencies which are in line with their field of specialization.

1.2.3 Master of Science in Nursing – Paediatric Critical Care

In this category the paediatric nurse is prepared at master's level. One has a specialization in paediatric nursing. In addition to being prepared as a Clinical Practitioner, the nurse with MSc in Paediatric Nursing is also prepared to be a Nurse Educator, Manager/leader, Counselor and Researcher.

SECTION II: SPECIFIC SCOPES OF PRACTICE FOR PAEDIATRIC NURSES

2.1 Higher Diploma in Paediatric Nursing

Applicability

This scope shall be applicable to persons who have completed a higher diploma in paediatric nursing. The nurse with a higher diploma in paediatric nursing shall: -

1. Assess, diagnose, manage and / or refer critically ill children to appropriate levels of care.
2. Provide patient and family centered care approach in paediatric management.
3. Identify and interpret Paediatric Early Warning Signs(PEWS) and take appropriate action.
4. Identify and assess children with special needs, including those with chronic illness, disabilities and abused among others.
5. Assess, initiate and manage patient on phototherapy accordingly.
6. Assess the need for and insert nasogastric and oral gastric tube for paediatric patients.
7. Implement play therapy for quality health improvement.

8. Support exclusive breastfeeding, cup feeding, tube feeding and manage a human milk bank.
9. Prescribe and administer medication via appropriate route except intrathecal and intra- cardiac routes to paediatric patients.
10. Administer therapeutic diets to include total parenteral nutrition.
11. Administer fluids, medications and monitor intraosseous fluid therapy to paediatric patients.
12. Assess need for, initiate and monitor Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) ventilation.
13. Participate in exchange blood transfusion.
14. Implement nursing care models/ pathways for children in health care settings as well as within families and communities.
15. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health team in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes.
16. Support in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to paediatric services.
17. Provide clinical teaching and mentorship to multidisciplinary health team in the paediatric unit.
18. Provide psychosocial care to paediatrics, families and communities.
19. Monitor and follow up on care provided to children.


20. Manage paediatric services at ward/unit level in a hospital.
21. Participate in and utilize research findings to improve paediatric care services.


2.2 Post – Graduate Diploma in Paediatric Nursing

Applicability

This scope shall be applicable to persons who have completed a post graduate diploma in paediatric nursing. The nurse with a post graduate diploma in paediatric nursing shall: -

1. Assess, diagnose, manage and / or refer critically ill children to appropriate levels of care.
2. Provide patient and family centered care approach in paediatric management
3. Identify and interpret Paediatric Early Warning Signs (PEWS) and take appropriate action.
4. Identify and assess children with special needs, including those with chronic illness, disabilities and abused.
5. Assess, initiate and manage patient on phototherapy accordingly.
6. Assess the need for and insert nasogastric /oral gastric for paediatric patients.

- 
7. Implement play therapy for quality health improvement.
 8. Support exclusive breastfeeding, cup feeding, tube feeding and manage a human milk bank.
 9. Prescribe and administer medication via appropriate route except intrathecal and intra- cardiac routes to paediatric patients.
 10. Prescribe and administer therapeutic diets to include total parenteral nutrition in collaboration with other health care team members.
 11. Administer fluids, medications and monitor intraosseous fluid therapy.
 12. Assess need for, initiate and monitor Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) ventilation
 13. Order and perform exchange blood transfusion as per manual of clinical procedure and other certified manuals.
 14. Order and perform arterial cannulation in children.
 15. Implement and evaluate nursing care models/ pathways for children in health care settings as well as within families and communities.
 16. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health team in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes.

- 
17. Develop and implement policies and guidelines that improve paediatric services.
 18. Provide psychosocial care to paediatrics, families and communities.
 19. Monitor and follow up on care provided to children.
 20. Manage paediatric services in facilities as well as training institutions.
 21. Implement curriculum related to paediatric nursing for diploma and higher diploma programs.
 22. Conduct and utilize research findings to improve paediatric care services.


2.3 Master of Science in Paediatric Nursing

Applicability

This scope shall be applicable to persons who have completed a master of science degree in paediatric nursing. The nurse with a master of science degree in paediatric nursing shall: -

1. Provide paediatric consultancy services.
2. Assess, diagnose, manage and / or refer critically ill children to appropriate levels of care.
3. Provide patient and family centered care approach in paediatric management.

4. Identify and interpret Paediatric Early Warning Signs (PEWS) and take appropriate action.
5. Identify and assess children with special needs, including those with chronic illness, disabilities and abused among others.
6. Assess, initiate and manage patient on phototherapy accordingly.
7. Assess the need for and insert nasogastric and oral gastric tube for paediatric patients.
8. Implement play therapy for health quality improvement.
9. Support exclusive breastfeeding, cup feeding, tube feeding and manage a Human milk bank.
10. Assess need for, initiate and monitor Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) ventilation.
11. In consultation with the health care team, order and administer therapeutic diets including total parenteral nutrition.
12. Order and administer fluids, medications and monitor intraosseous fluid therapy.
13. Order and perform exchange blood transfusion as per the manual of clinical procedure and other certified manuals.

- 
14. Direct, implement and evaluate nursing care models/ pathways for children in health care settings as well as within families and communities.
 15. Order and perform arterial cannulation in children.
 16. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health team in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes.
 17. Initiate, direct, develop, implement policies and guidelines that improve paediatric services.
 18. Provide psychosocial care to paediatrics, families and communities.
 19. Monitor and follow up on care provided to children.
 20. Manage paediatric services at all levels of health care provision.
 21. Design, implement and evaluate curriculum related to paediatric nursing for undergraduate and post graduate programs.
 22. Initiate, conduct, utilize and disseminate research findings to improve paediatric care services.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Comparative Table of Different Levels

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess, diagnose, manage and / or refer critically ill children to appropriate levels of care.2. Provide patient and family centered care approach in paediatric management.3. Identify and interpret Paediatric Early Warning Signs (PEWS) and take appropriate action.4. Identify and assess children with special needs, including those with chronic illness,	<p>In addition to the scope of practice of a nurse with a higher diploma in paediatric nursing, the nurse with a post graduate diploma in paediatric nursing shall: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Order and perform exchange blood transfusion as per manual of clinical procedure and other certified manuals.2. Order and perform arterial cannulation in children.	<p>In addition to the scope of practice of a nurse with a post graduate diploma in paediatric nursing, the nurse with a masters of science degree in paediatric nursing shall: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide paediatric consultancy services.2. Direct, implement and evaluate nursing care models/ pathways for paediatrics in health care settings as well as

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>disabilities and abused among others.</p> <p>5. Assess, initiate and manage patient on phototherapy accordingly.</p> <p>6. Assess the need for and insert nasogastric and oral gastric tube for paediatric patients.</p> <p>7. Implement play therapy for quality health improvement.</p> <p>8. Support exclusive breastfeeding, cup feeding, tube feeding and manage a human milk bank.</p> <p>9. Prescribe and administer medication via appropriate</p>	<p>3. Implement and evaluate nursing care models/ pathways for children in health care settings as well as within families and communities.</p> <p>4. Develop and implement policies and guidelines that improve paediatric services.</p> <p>5. Manage paediatric services in facilities as well as training institutions.</p> <p>6. Implement curriculum related to paediatric nursing for diploma and higher diploma programs.</p>	<p>within families and communities.</p> <p>3. Initiate, direct, develop, implement policies and guidelines improve paediatric services.</p> <p>4. Manage paediatric services services at all levels of health care provision.</p> <p>5. Design, implement and evaluate curriculum related to paediatric nursing for undergraduate and post graduate programs.</p> <p>6. Initiate, conduct, utilize and disseminate research findings</p>

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>route except intrathecal and intra- cardiac routes to paediatric patients.</p> <p>10. Administer therapeutic diets to include total parenteral nutrition.</p> <p>11. Administer fluids, medications and monitor intraosseous fluid therapy to paediatric patients.</p> <p>12. Assess need for, initiate and monitor Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) ventilation.</p> <p>13. Participate in exchange blood transfusion.</p>	<p>7. Conduct and utilize research findings to improve paediatric care services.</p>	<p>to improve paediatric care services.</p>

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>14. Implement nursing care models/ pathways for children in health care settings as well as within families and communities.</p> <p>15. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health team in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes.</p> <p>16. Support in development of policies and guidelines that improve paediatric services.</p> <p>17. Provide clinical teaching and mentorship to multidisciplinary health team in the paediatric unit.</p>		

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>18. Provide psychosocial care to paediatrics, families and communities.</p> <p>19. Monitor and follow up on care provided to children.</p> <p>20. Manage paediatric services at ward/unit level in a hospital.</p> <p>21. Participate in and utilize research findings to improve paediatric services.</p>		

Appendix II: Schedule of Specialized Procedures

Specialised Procedures	Higher Diploma	Post graduate Diploma	Masters
Intra osseous fluid administration			
Endotracheal intubation	C		
Tracheostomy			
Initiating respiratory support using invasive or non-invasive positive pressure ventilation			
Asses need for, initiate and monitor Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) ventilation			
Sampling blood from arterial line			
Extubating			
Phototherapy			
Calculating the required kilocalories as per age and initiate enteral feeding	C	C	C
Initiate parenteral feeding where enteral feeding is not possible		A	A
Pulmonary hygiene (endotracheal suction)			
Removal of a chest tube			
Chest tube insertion			

Specialised Procedures	Higher Diploma	Post graduate Diploma	Masters
Hemodynamic monitoring: measurement and interpretation of central venous pressure (CVP), arterial blood pressure and intracranial pressure (ICP)			
Taking and interpreting a 12 lead ECG rhythm			
Diagnose cardiac arrest and Initiating CPR			
Initiating cardiovascular support using fluid therapy and vaso active agents	C	C	C
Cardiac pacing and defibrillations			
Peritoneal dialysis	A & C		
Insertion of CVC and arterial line		A	A
Bronchoscopy			
Cardiac catheterization			
Peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion			
Exchange blood transfusion			
Trans pyloric nasogastric tube insertion			
Bone marrow aspirate			
Lumber puncture			
Pericardiocentesis, thoracentesis and paracentesis			

Specialised Procedures	Higher Diploma	Post graduate Diploma	Masters
Plasmapheresis			
Procedure on shunting			

KEY:

	Perform unassisted
	Perform with assistance
	Assist
A	Additional training
C	Consultation

Appendix III: Schedule of Laboratory & Radiological Investigations

Investigations	Higher Diploma	Post graduate Diploma	Masters
ROUTINE TESTS			
Complete blood count (CBC)			
Arterial blood gas (ABG)	C		
Blood sugar (RBS/FBS)			
Urea/Electrolyte/Creatinine (U/E/C)			
BASED ON PATIENT NEEDS			
Coagulation profile (APTT, PTI)			
INR			
ECG	A		
Cardiac Triage (D-Dimers, Myoglobin, Troponin, CKMB, Pro BNP)			
Liver function tests (LFTs)			
Bilirubin Levels			
Lipid profile			
Cultures (blood, urine, tracheal aspirate)			
Pregnancy test			
Procalcitonin			
C-Reactive protein (CRP)			
CSF studies			
Pulmonary function test			

Investigations	Higher Diploma	Post graduate Diploma	Masters
Urinalysis (Dip stick)			
HIV test (PCR or antibody test)			
VDRL			
Hepatitis			
Gene expert			
Stool for ova & cyst			
Stool for H - pylori antigen test			
Hydrogen breath test			
Sickling test			
Cystic fibrosis Transmembrane conductance regulator			
Guthrie (PKU) test			
RADIOLOGICAL TESTS			
Chest X ray	C	C	C
Echocardiogram (types)		A	A
Doppler ultrasound	A & C	A & C	A & C
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 IV: Drug List Scheduling Considerations


The nurse will be guided by the following: -

1. Work to the extent of training and certification, i.e. Higher diploma, postgraduate and masters.
2. Power to prescribe medications with different levels of physician oversight as follows:-
 - Restricted
 - Reduced restrictions
 - Full practice autonomy
3. Individual qualification, experience and competence.

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

The paediatric nurse shall prescribe and /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 Paediatric 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 paediatric care nurse is working in level 3 facilities and below.

Medications that can be prescribed and administered by a paediatric nurse include medications for: -

- Seizure/ convulsions
- Pain management
- Relief of fever
- Antibiotic
- Management of shock syndromes
- Electrolyte imbalance
- Fluid imbalance
- Blood and blood products transfusions

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accountable

Being answerable for one's actions, decisions and advice legally or professionally.

Advocacy Role

A role in which the paediatric nurse does procedures on behalf of patient/clients to help them gain greater independence or self-determination and to make the system more responsive and relevant to their needs and the needs of paediatric nurse and other health care providers.

Assessment

The organized, systematic and continuous process of observations and measurements of paediatric care. Assessment includes the use of interviewing, physical examination and carrying out investigations.

Nursing

Nursing is the integration and application of nursing and other basic science knowledge in the provision of care to enable people to promote, maintain and recover their health, to cope with health problems and to achieve the best possible quality of life through the health illness continuum.

Paediatric nurse

A nurse trained and specialized in the care of patients aged between 0–18 years.

Registered

A person having been entered in the registers of nurses or midwives in Kenya.

Paediatric Scope of Practice

This defines the limits of care a paediatric nurse is supposed to provide care during their practice. However, the scopes of practice statements usually go beyond that point to differentiate between the levels of the paediatric nurses' preparation and experience.

Paediatric nursing is autonomous and occurs within partnership with the clients and other collaborators. It embraces responsibility and accountability for continued competence and ethical behavior in practice.

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Amendment Sheet

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