



## Enabling Professionalism in Record Keeping Practice during Pandemic Surge Demand

NIPEC has been asked to put together this short guidance on record keeping practice by the Chief Nursing Officer for Northern Ireland, Professor Charlotte McArdle, to support nursing and midwifery staff during increasing demand on services as a result of surges of the corona virus pandemic.

Topic	Guidance
<b>Challenge</b>	Where high levels of service demand are likely, it is especially important that information being captured around <b>assessment of nursing or midwifery need linked to a plan of care is appropriate, current and accessible.</b> (See section 3 NMC Code 2018). Nurses and midwives, however, may find themselves in situations on occasions, where it is not possible to carry out a full assessment for patients in their care for a variety of reasons. <a href="http://nmc.org.uk">The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses, midwives and nursing associates (nmc.org.uk)</a>
<b>Regulatory Implications</b>	Excerpt from Joint Regulatory statement NMC and UK CNOs: <i>We want nurses and midwives, in partnership with patients and people they provide care for, to use their professional judgement to assess risk and make sure people receive safe care, informed by the values and principles set out in their professional standards. ...They must bear in mind that clinicians may need to depart, possibly significantly, from established procedures to care for patients in the highly challenging but time-bound circumstances of the peak of a pandemic.</i> <a href="http://nmc.org.uk">Supporting nursing and midwifery professionals during the Covid-19 pandemic (nmc.org.uk)</a>
<b>Consider:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Person-centred nursing and midwifery assessments have different sets of criteria dependent on specific care settings</li> <li>• Each person that enters a clinical setting to receive care and treatment will have individual health and wellbeing needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Always:</b>	After usual demographic and next of kin information, critical areas that must be <b>always</b> be assessed and recorded for all patients on initial admission to a service are: alerts, allergies, do not attempt resuscitation orders, psychological assessments and risk assessments relating to Infection Prevention and Control, and moving and handling.
<b>Professional judgement</b>	Where it is not possible to complete a full assessment, professional judgement should be used to prioritise the <b>most relevant assessment criteria and other risk assessments to the immediate presenting need of the person being cared for.</b>
<b>Record incomplete sections (p15)</b>	Where assessment criteria have been omitted, you should record those areas which require further review – in the regional adult record this is at page 15, where there is a section for you to do this. It is good practice to include a short reason as to why it was not possible for you to record responses to all assessment criteria at that time.  All registered nurses and midwives are responsible for assessment of need within their scope of practice, therefore subsequent teams coming on shift should review the incomplete assessment adding to it where they can, again tracking those areas that were unable to be covered for the next team of nurses taking over on the next shift.
<b>Optional sections</b>	There are also elements of the record which had been requested through the usual process of development co-production with staff as an aide memoir which may not necessarily be helpful during periods of surge demand – again based on the professional judgement of the assessing nurse or nurses. An example of this is the summary of assessed needs on page 14 of the adult record.
<b>PACE</b>	<b>Remember!</b> Those areas using the PACE approach to planning person-centred nursing and midwifery care - following the initial assessment complete or otherwise - will be continuously assessing need against the activities of living as an integral element to record keeping practice on a shift by shift/daily basis.

Enabling Professionalism during COVID-19 Surge Demand Microsite can be accessed via the main NIPEC homepage at [www.nipec.hscni.net](http://www.nipec.hscni.net)