



RCN

Professional Services

RCN Credentialing for Advanced Level Nursing Practice

Handbook for applicants



Royal College
of Nursing

2020 | International Year
of the Nurse and Midwife





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Introduction

Nursing continues to evolve and modern nursing practice has built on its traditional skills and knowledge base to enable it to be responsive to society's changing health care needs. The RCN, as the United Kingdom's professional body for nursing, helps promote, support and further develop the profession and assists nurses to obtain the recognition they deserve.

That is why the RCN is introducing a credentialing approach – formal recognition for each nurse, their colleagues, employers and most importantly, patients and the public, of the advanced level of expertise and skill that nurses awarded this credential have achieved. This will be evidenced

across the four pillars of: clinical practice, leadership, education and research.

This is not about a job title; it is about recognising the level of practice a nurse is working at.

RCN Advanced Practice standards is characterised by the following principles:

- autonomous practice
- critical thinking
- high levels of decision-making and problem-solving
- values-based care
- improving practice.

Eligibility

Any nurse who works at an advanced level of clinical practice, has non-medical prescribing rights and has an active registration with the NMC can apply.

Applications are open to members and non-members of the RCN.

Eligibility is linked solely to an applicant's ability to demonstrate that they meet our requirements for qualifications, experience and competence.

The initial credential is for three years.

The definition of advanced practice set out below, together with the advice provided, should help individuals to identify whether they meet the requirements for the credential.

RCN definition of advanced practice:

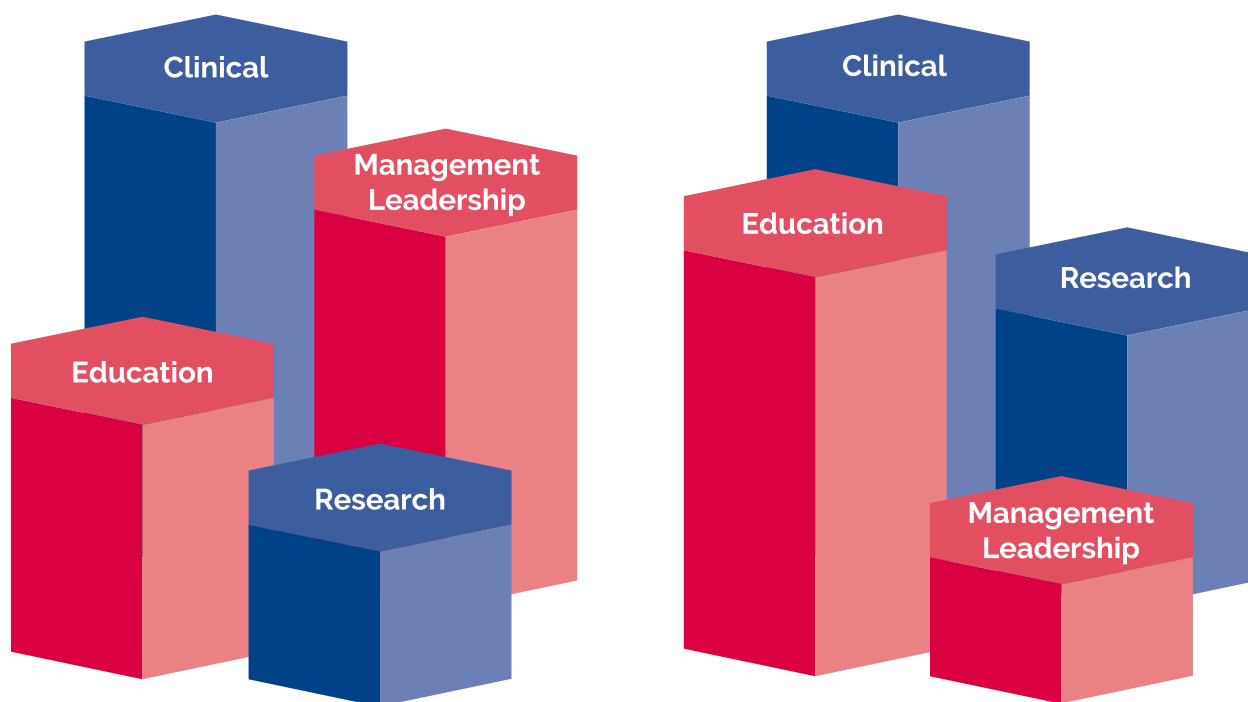
“Advanced practice is a level of practice, rather than a type of practice. Advanced Nurse Practitioners are educated at master's level in clinical practice and have been assessed as competent in practice using their expert clinical knowledge and skills. They have the freedom and authority to act, making autonomous decisions in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients.”

There are many nurses who function at an 'advanced' level but may not be working in a specifically clinical role. The RCN, and frameworks of the four countries of the UK, see advanced practice as a level of practice rather than a role or title; as well as clinical practice, a practitioner may be working in research, education or managerial/leadership roles. These four domains are the pillars of advanced practice and all advanced practice posts will contain some elements of each pillar.

Each of the pillars may be demonstrated in a variety of ways. With respect to research, for example, practitioners may not have a formal research remit, but may demonstrate how to identify research questions or implement research in practice. Similarly, practitioners may manage staff, services or resources. Education can be a formal part of practice linked to a higher education institution (HEI) or it may be less formal education in practice. However, for advanced practice clinical roles the clinical pillar will always be the most prominent.



Fig 1. The four pillars can combine in different ways depending on how and where you practise.



Source: NHS Wales Advanced Practice Framework (2010).

Credentialing criteria

The RCN seeks to credential nurses who fulfil the criteria for advanced level practice, to recognise this level of practice, and to continue to develop the profession. Therefore a set of criteria that represents the very best in advanced level nursing practice has been developed:

- a relevant master's degree
- non-medical prescribing qualification
- experience and expertise mapped against the four pillars of advanced nursing practice
- a job plan that demonstrates current advanced level practice verified by a senior nurse/employer
- a clinical reference verifying the applicant's clinical competence
- evidence of continued professional development related to advanced nursing practice over the previous three years
- a qualification in Health Assessment/ Clinical Examination.

This stringent set of criteria will enable the nursing profession to be better recognised for excellent practice, endorse exceptional practice and create a development route for those nurses aspiring to work at an advanced level.

The RCN recognises that these requirements may exclude many nurses who currently adopt the title ANP/NP but are unable to meet the requirements of the credential. We have therefore created pathways (models) to enable these nurses to demonstrate their expertise and equivalencies for the criteria, or to acquire the additional skills and knowledge required.

The transitional pathways will be time limited, for further detail please review the website <https://www.rcn.org.uk/Professional-Development/Professional-services/Credentialing>.

Those nurses achieving the credential through the transitional pathway will NOT be required to achieve a full master's degree following cessation of the transitional arrangements as they will be deemed to have already met the criteria for the credential.

The following pathways to credentialing (models A-D) set out below will assist you in deciding whether you meet the requirements. If you do not have the required evidence you should not submit an application, as it is unlikely to be successful and we are unable to refund your application fee.

You are advised to ensure your reference maps against the four pillars of advanced practice and is signed by a senior clinician. Templates for this purpose can be found in the appendices.

You must ensure that your job plan gives a detailed account of your daily work and not a brief description. For example, "working in surgery" or "working on medical ward" is not sufficient. The job plan must be verified by a senior clinical lead or your employer. In either case, the signatory must know your work and agree to be contacted if required. For transitional pathways, you may need to supply two referees' names. A template can be found in the appendices. The reference and job plan must not be signed by the same person.

The clinical referee should be from a job posting of over 12 months duration. If you have been at your job for less than this time you will require an additional clinical reference from your previous employer.

Please submit documentary evidence if your name differs on transcripts or certificates.

If you need help understanding the requirements or the acceptable forms of evidence for each, you can contact us at credentialing@rcn.org.uk with your questions.



Pathways to achieving the RCN Advanced Level Nursing Credential

MODEL A: RCN Accredited MSc in Advanced Practice (or comparable e.g. nationally commissioned Northern Irish, Scottish or Welsh Masters award)

Qualification	Experience	Competence	Evidence	Check
MSc/Masters Advanced Practice	Successful completion of final year of MSc ANP is the consolidation and experience period whilst in clinical practice and is minimal level of experience		Transcript/certificate of successful achievement. NMC PIN	
NMC recordable prescribing qualification			NMC Statement of Entry/ certificate of successful achievement	
	Currently employed/ self-employed as advanced level nurse working in accordance with the four pillars of advanced practice		Current, detailed completed Job Plan verified by employer/clinical lead. (This is not the job description, but a description of the actual roles carried out by the ALNP in a typical week/month)	
	Two examples of evidence of CPD related to advanced clinical practice within previous three years		Evidence for revalidation purposes demonstrating advanced level practice (certificate and NMC template) is acceptable or two reflective pieces related to ALNP level practice	
		Assessed as competent in practice – local assessment using country-specific framework assessed by clinical lead	Completed, current, detailed Job Plan signed by employer/clinical lead. (This is not the job description, but a description of the actual roles carried out by the ALNP in a typical week) Clinical reference signed by a senior clinician different from the person who signs the Job Plan	

MODEL B: Master's degree in advanced practice, not accredited by the RCN

Qualification	Experience	Competence	Evidence	Check
Master's degree transcripts			Transcripts or certificates of successful completion of programme mapped against the four pillars of advanced practice NMC PIN	
NMC recordable prescribing qualification			NMC Statement of Entry/Certificate of successful achievement	
			Current, detailed completed Job Plan verified by employer/clinical lead. (This is not the job description, but a description of the actual roles carried out by the ALNP in a typical week/month)	
	Two examples of evidence of CPD related to advanced clinical practice within the previous three years.		Evidence for revalidation purposes demonstrating advanced level practice (certificate and NMC template) is acceptable or two reflective pieces related to ALNP level practice	
		Assessed as competent in practice- local assessment using country-specific framework assessed by clinical lead	Completed, detailed, current Job Plan signed by employer/clinical leader. (This is not the job description, but a description of the actual roles carried out by the ALNP in a typical week) Clinical reference signed by a senior clinician different from the person signing the Job Plan.	



MODEL C: Full masters with clinical focus (MA, MSc, MBA)

Qualification	Experience	Competence	Evidence	Check
Master's degree Health Assessment module at level 6 or 7.			Transcripts or certificates of successful completion of programme mapped against the four pillars of advanced practice NMC PIN	
NMC recordable prescribing qualification			NMC Statement of Entry/Certificate of successful achievement	
			Current, detailed completed Job Plan verified by employer/clinical lead. (This is not the job description, but a description of the actual roles carried out by the ALNP in a typical week/month)	
	Two examples of evidence of CPD related to advanced clinical practice within the previous three years.		Evidence for revalidation purposes demonstrating advanced level practice (certificate and NMC template) is acceptable or two reflective pieces related to ALNP level practice	
		Assessed as competent in practice- local assessment using country- specific framework assessed by clinical lead	Completed, detailed, current Job Plan signed by employer/clinical leader. (This is not the job description, but a description of the actual roles carried out by the ALNP in a typical week) Clinical reference signed by a senior clinician different from the person signing the job plan.	

MODEL D: TRANSITIONAL CRITERIA UNTIL DECEMBER 2022– Demonstrating Masters Level experience

Qualification	Experience	Competence	Evidence	Check
L7 credits L 6 credits Health Assessment module (Level 6 or 7)			Transcripts/certificates of successful completion NMCPIN Portfolio of evidence mapped against four pillars of advanced practice includes a reflective statement of 1000 words demonstrating evidence of achievement of meeting the descriptor for Higher Education Qualifications at level 7 (or level 11 on the Scottish Qualifications Framework, section) in full. The descriptors can be found below. The reflection must also demonstrate application of the four pillars of advanced practice & will be marked at masters level.	
NMC recordable prescribing qualification (Level 6 or 7)			NMC Statement of Entry/ certificate of successful achievement	
	Prescribing qualification required Currently working at advanced level in accordance with the four pillars of advanced practice		Current, detailed completed Job Plan verified by employer/ clinical lead. (This is not the job description, but a description of the actual roles carried out by the ALNP in a typical week/month)	
	Two examples of evidence of CPD related to advanced clinical practice in previous 3 years		Evidence for revalidation purposes demonstrating advanced level practice (certificate and NMC template) is acceptable or two reflective pieces related to ALNP level practice	
		Assessed as competent in practice- local assessment using country-specific framework assessed by clinical lead.	A clinical reference, including reference to the published advanced practice framework used in the assessment in the workplace or in the programme transcript and the four pillars of advanced practice. Signed by a senior clinician different to the person signing the Job Plan.	



Mapping to the Higher Education Qualifications at level 7 (or level 11 on the Scottish Qualifications Framework)

For those applicants who have not completed a full master's degree programme, you have the opportunity, for a transitional period only, to write a 1,000-word reflective statement demonstrating how you believe you meet the descriptors outlined below for Higher Education Qualifications at level 7 (or level 11 on the Scottish Qualifications Framework or, from April 2018, the apprenticeship model).

We are particularly interested in how you demonstrate the following achievements:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level
- have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - Decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - The independent learning ability required for continuing professional development (CPD).

FOR INFORMATION

Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at the forefront of, or informed by, their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice

- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student to:
 - critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
 - evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

And holders will have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:

- The exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- Decision making in complex and unpredictable situations
- The independent learning ability necessary for continuing professional development.
- The reflective piece needs to be referenced and requires a bibliography.

Renewing your credential

The initial credential period is three years.

After this time, renewal is required for a further three years; there is a fee for renewal.

The RCN credentialing team will notify the advanced level nurse by email one month before the credential is due to expire that they must renew, so that their name can remain on the database.

In order to renew the credential for a further three years the ALNP will be required to produce the following:

- a current, detailed job plan signed by a senior clinician/employer who can verify that this is a true reflection of the ALNP's clinical practice in a typical week
- a clinical reference signed by a different senior clinician /employer verifying that the ALNP is working at a level of practice commensurate with the requirements of the four pillars of advanced practice
- evidence of CPD in the previous three years related to the advanced level nursing role (two pieces). Evidence for revalidation purposes demonstrating advanced level practice (certificate and NMC template) is acceptable or two reflective pieces related to ALNP level practice

- a statement to the effect that the ALNP is not under investigation/disciplinary procedures from the NMC and/or their employer.

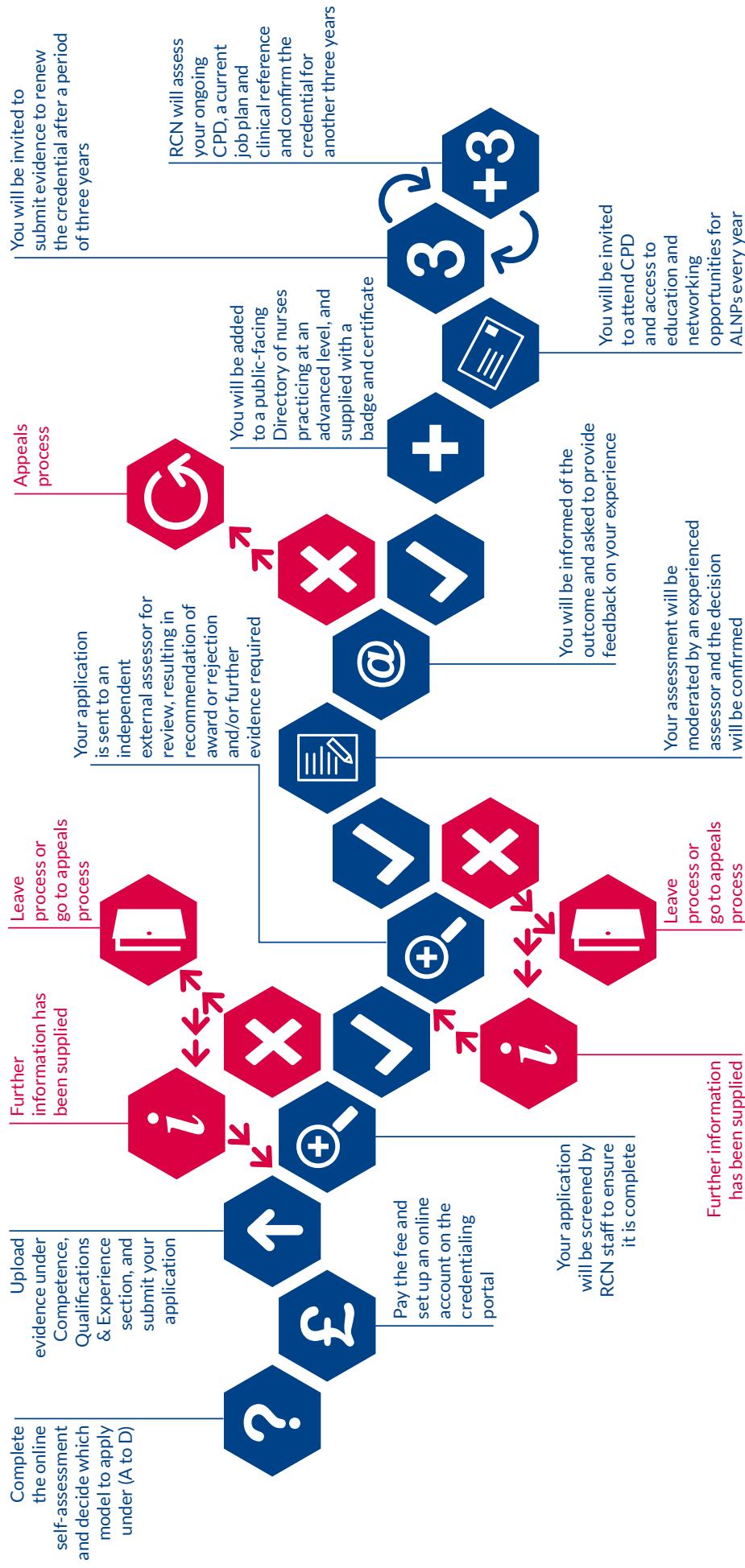
It is expected that the ALNP practises, at all times, in accordance with the NMC Code (2015) and will notify the RCN credentialing team at credentialing@rcn.org.uk

The material submitted for the re-credential will be scrutinised by an external assessor from the RCN's Approved List of Credentialing Assessors. The assessor's decision will be final.

Should the ALNP no longer meet the criteria for the credential, or if there is sound reason for doing so, the ALNP's name will be removed from the database.

The assessment process

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO RCN CREDENTIALLING



References

DHSSPS (2016) Advanced Nursing Practice Framework, Supporting Advanced Nursing Practice in Health and Social Care Trusts.

NHS Scotland Advanced Practice Toolkit
www.advancedpractice.scot.nhs.uk

NLIAH & GIGC/NHSW (2016) Framework for Advanced Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional Practice in Wales.

RCN Standards for Advanced Level Nursing Practice (2018)

Northern Ireland Supporting Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care (2014)

Nursing and Midwifery Council (2018) The Code: Standards of practice and behaviours for nurses and midwives, London: NMC.

QAA (2018) The UK Quality Code for Higher Education. Part A.

Appeals and complaints

If you are unsuccessful in your application for the RCN Advanced Level Nurse Credential, you may appeal within 14 days if you believe the assessors have failed to assess your application correctly. If you appeal, we will ask you to complete a “grounds for appeal form” (rcn.org.uk/contact/complaints-form).

This, along with your original application, will be considered by a new assessor, and moderated by a third assessor whose decision will be final. Complaints will be managed in accordance with the RCN’s complaints policy.

rcn.org.uk/contact/rcn-customer-promise



Appendix one: Reference template

Advanced practice is a level of practice, rather than a type of practice. Advanced Nurse Practitioners are educated at Masters Level in clinical practice and have been assessed as competent in practice using their expert clinical knowledge and skills. They have the freedom and authority to act, making autonomous decisions in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients.

RCN DEFINITION OF ADVANCED PRACTICE 2018

RCN standards for Advanced Level Nursing Practice: [rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007038](https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007038)

Advanced level nursing practice must encompass all aspects of this definition in order to be credentialed by the RCN.

RCN standards for advanced practice are available [here](#). This includes signposting to the four country frameworks.

This clinical reference should evidence the following:

- the four pillars of advanced practice
- autonomous practice
- critical thinking
- high levels of decision-making and problem-solving
- values-based care
- improving practice.

Applicant's name	NMC PIN:
Applicant's Professional Registration and Academic Achievements:	

Please describe the applicant's work in relation to each of the following:

Clinical: (please outline how the applicant works at an advanced level utilising the criteria in the definition above)	
Leadership: (Please describe how the applicant demonstrates the leadership role)	
Facilitation of learning: (Please describe how the applicant is involved in the facilitation of learning, e.g. teaching and training, supervision)	
Evidence, research and development: (Please demonstrate how the applicant is involved in evidence-based practice, research and practice development)	
To be signed by organisational Clinical Lead	
I hereby confirm that _____ is competent to work at an advanced level of nursing and practice in accordance with the criteria set out above.	
Name	
Signature	
Designation	
Date	



Appendix two: Example job plan

Please complete the table below showing your work for a typical week/ working pattern. The job plan MUST reflect the four pillars of advanced level practice: Practice/Education/Management-leadership/ Research-evidence -based practice. The work you do in relation to these pillars will vary from day to day and in relation to the work you are doing, however, clinical practice needs to be the main focus. For those with a portfolio of roles the job plan should reflect this and may need to be wider (e.g. monthly/annually).

REFERENCES

RCN advanced practice standards

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Night	Comments
Monday					
Tuesday					
Wednesday					
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					
Sunday					
Do you have any further comments you would like to make about your job plan?					

I confirm that this is a true reflection of my working pattern:	
Name	
Signature (electronic signature acceptable)	
Date	

Verification: By a line manager, clinical lead or senior colleague who understands the nature of your work.	
I confirm that this is a true reflection of (insert above's name) working pattern.	
Name	
Signature (electronic signature acceptable)	
Designation	
Date	

This is an example job plan.

A template is available from the credentialing team.



Appendix three: RCN Accredited Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) Programmes as at February 2020

Name of university	Course title
Anglia Ruskin University	MSc/PG Dip Advanced Practice (Clinical)
University of Bradford	MSc/PG Dip Advanced Practice
City University London	MSc ACP and MSc ACP(Apprenticeship) Programmes
University of Cumbria	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice
University of Hertfordshire	MSc Contemporary Nursing (Advanced Practice)
University of Huddersfield	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP)
London South Bank University	MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Adult) MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Adult) Apprenticeship MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Child) MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Child) Apprenticeship MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Mental Health) MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Mental Health) Apprenticeship
University of Plymouth	MSc Advanced Professional Practice (Clinical Practitioner)
Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen	MSc Advancing Nursing Practice

Appendix four: Descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 7

DESCRIPTOR FOR A HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION AT LEVEL 7 ON THE FHEQ AND SCQF LEVEL 11 ON THE FQHEIS: MASTER'S DEGREE

Master's degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at the forefront of, or informed by, their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice
- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student to:
 - critically evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
 - evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - the independent learning ability necessary for continuing professional development.

Much of the study undertaken for master's degrees is at the forefront of, or informed by, an academic or professional discipline. Successful students show originality in the application of knowledge, and they understand how the boundaries of knowledge are advanced through research. They are able to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, and they show originality in tackling and solving problems. They have the qualities needed for employment in circumstances requiring sound judgement, personal responsibility and initiative in complex and unpredictable professional environments.

Master's degrees are awarded after completion of taught courses, programmes of research or a mixture of both. Longer, research-based programmes may lead to the degree of MPhil. The learning outcomes of most master's degree courses are achieved on the basis of study equivalent to at least one full-time calendar year and are taken by graduates with a bachelor's degree with honours (or equivalent achievement).

Masters degrees are often distinguished from other qualifications at this framework level (for example, advanced short courses, which often form parts of continuing professional development programmes and lead to postgraduate certificates and/or postgraduate diplomas) by an increased intensity, complexity



and density of study. Master's degrees, in comparison to postgraduate certificates and postgraduate diplomas, typically include planned intellectual progression that often includes a synoptic/research or scholarly activity.

Appendix five: Template for mapping qualifications to four pillars (Model B & C)

PLEASE CROSS REFERENCE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS/ MASTER'S MODULES TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

<p>Clinical Practice Please reference health assessment course and prescribing</p>
<p>Leadership This may be standalone (not necessarily academic) or a module. It may be an independent study module where you demonstrated clinical leadership</p>
<p>Education/Facilitation of Learning E.g. mentorship/teaching module/course</p>
<p>Research / Evidence based practice This may be dissertation or project as part of masters etc.</p>



Appendix six: Frequently asked questions

WHAT IS CREDENTIALING?

Credentialing recognises a nurse's ability to practise at an advanced level. It is an opportunity for nurses to demonstrate their qualifications, expertise and competence in their clinical practice, their leadership, their education and their research. It also enables them to enhance and develop their career prospects and to continue their personal and professional development.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO CREDENTIAL?

Any nurse who works at an advanced level of practice, has non-medical prescribing rights and has an active registration with the NMC can apply, and will be successful if they demonstrate that they meet our requirements by supplying the necessary evidence.

Eligibility is linked solely to your ability to demonstrate that you meet our requirements for qualifications, experience and competence, and not, for example, your job title. The definition of advanced practice set out below should also help you identify if you meet the requirements.

The RCN definition is as follows:

“Advanced practice is a level of practice, rather than a type of practice. Advanced Nurse Practitioners are educated at Masters Level in clinical practice and have been assessed as competent in practice using their expert clinical knowledge and skills. They have the freedom and authority to act, making autonomous decisions in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients.”

I CURRENTLY HOLD A BSC NURSE PRACTITIONER AWARD – DO I NOW NEED TO STUDY FOR A MASTER'S IN ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE?

Currently, there are transitional arrangements in place so that any nurses who

don't meet the criteria for credentialing and are undertaking advanced level practice can apply for the credential on submission of evidence demonstrating that the RCN criteria for advanced level nursing are met.

If you have a question about whether you are eligible, please email credentialing@rcn.org.uk

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GAIN THE CREDENTIAL?

Nurses will need to show that they are operating at an advanced level of practice by demonstrating evidence and experience in four areas: clinical practice, leadership, teaching and research. However, clinical practice must be the main focus.

They will also need to show evidence of a job plan that demonstrates current advanced level practice and provides evidence of practice in the four areas above. This will need to be verified by a senior nurse or employer, who will provide a clinical reference confirming their clinical competence and showing evidence of CPD.

WHO ASSESSES WHETHER YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR CREDENTIALING?

The RCN will assess credentialing. A team of people who have been involved in developing the credentialing process will assess the evidence to determine whether a nurse has sufficient evidence and expertise to gain the credential.

Assessors are selected for their knowledge, skills and expertise in the subject area of the material submitted for credentialing.

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I AM CREDENTIALLED?

Those who are successful in credentialing will be included on a public-facing, searchable directory, and will receive a badge and certificate. The credential will be renewed every three years.

WHY ARE ONLY NURSES AT ADVANCED LEVEL ELIGIBLE?

At present credentialing is only open to nurses practicing at an advanced level, but if it is successful, the RCN will extend it to other nursing specialisms.

I ATTENDED AN RCN-ACCREDITED UNIVERSITY – DOES THAT MEAN I HAVE THE CREDENTIALS ALREADY?

From April 2017, nurses who successfully achieve the full master's qualification, including non-medical prescribing, from an RCN-accredited university will have the credential awarded for the first three years. The re-credentialing process will accord with all other re-credentialing criteria.

HOW IS CREDENTIALING DIFFERENT TO ACCREDITATION?

Credentialing is a way of recognising an individual nurse's competence to practice at an advanced level. Accreditation is a way of recognising a particular course of study or institution providing the programme.

HOW DOES CREDENTIALING LINK TO NMC REVALIDATION?

NMC revalidation recognises your ability to practise as a registered nurse or midwife and maintain active registration on the NMC Professional Register of Nurses and Midwives.

This is a statutory requirement. Credentialing is a way of recognising competence to practise at a particular level. It is an RCN initiative and is not mandatory for registration with the NMC, nor for revalidation. Evidence you use for your CPD in revalidation can also be used as evidence in credentialing and re-credentialing.

HOW MUCH DOES CREDENTIALING COST?

Inclusion on the database will incur a cost. The initial assessment will be £275, with renewal (after three year cycle) being £125. Prices include VAT.

WHY IS THERE A COST WHEN I ALREADY PAY NMC AND RCN FEES?

Like many other professional qualifications, the process of credentialing, including assessment and inclusion on the register, incurs a cost. Gaining a credential is separate to your registration with the NMC and your membership of the RCN. Moreover, credentialing is available to non-RCN members.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T PASS THE CREDENTIAL ASSESSMENT?

If you are unsuccessful in your application for the credential you will not be added to the database but you will incur charges. You can re-apply for credentialing at any time on submission of further evidence and payment of a credentialing fee.

IF I AM UNSUCCESSFUL IN MY CREDENTIALING APPLICATION BUT AM STILL EMPLOYED WITH A JOB TITLE AS AN ANP WILL THE RCN STILL PROVIDE INDEMNITY FOR ME?

Please refer to the RCN website regarding indemnity:
rcn.org.uk/get-help/indemnity-scheme

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT ME TO DEVELOP AS AN ADVANCED LEVEL NURSE?

The RCN website has useful publications to support nursing innovation and advanced practice. The RCN ANP Forum is a useful group to join.







The RCN represents nurses and nursing, promotes excellence in practice and shapes health policies

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