

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland – online survey consultation for the Digital health competency standards and requirements for undergraduate nursing and midwifery education programmes

1. Which of the following best represents you?

- Nurse
- Midwife
- Academic/lecturer
- Service user/Patient
- Student nurse/midwife
- General public
- Organisation/other**

If Organisation /other, please specify below: **PSI – the Pharmacy regulator**

2. If you selected nurse/midwife for question one, how long have you been practising?

- 0-4 years
- 5-9 years
- 10+ years

3. Are you familiar with digital health? **Yes**

If yes, please provide details in the comment box below:

4. How do you feel about using digital systems?

- Very Confident
- Somewhat confident
- I'm not sure
- Not confident
- Definitely not confident

*** N/A - question not relevant to an organisation.**

5. Domain 1 Digital Professionalism

5a. Do you think this section provides adequate information?

- Yes
- No

If no, please provide details in the comment box below:

5b. Could this section be improved?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details in the comment box below:

- In relation to 1.1 Professional Development, we would suggest adding 'knows how to source' to the second competency.
- Consider incorporating the following capability statement from the Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework (1.1) *Maintains currency with tools and innovations, [where practical] and in relation to the changing nature of digital health*
- Consider incorporating the following capability statement from the Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework [1.2] [Understands that nurses and midwives have a responsibility to] *recognise and act upon digital situations and events, including illegal practices or unprofessional conduct, that might compromise personal, professional or organisational security or reputation*
- Consider incorporating the following capability statement from the Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework [1.2] [Understands that nurses and midwives have a responsibility to] *recognise and act upon cultural, ethical, and socioeconomic inequity related to access to, and use of, health information*

6. Domain 2 Leadership and Advocacy

6a. Do you think this section provides adequate information?

Yes

No

If no, please provide details in the comment box below:

6b. Could this section be improved?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details in the comment box below:

- Domain 2 is in general not as clearly worded as the other domains and it is not as easy to understand from the document how it would be applied in practice.

7. Domain 3 Data and Information Quality

7a. Do you think this section provides adequate information?

Yes

No

If no, please provide details in the comment box below:

7b. Could this section be improved?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details in the comment box below:

- In relation to:
 - **3.1 Data capture** we would suggest adding 'review of data' to the competencies and adding 'understands how to mitigate risks' to the last competency.
 - **3.2 Data management** we would suggest that the understanding of informatics and digital health terminology may sit better within a different domain/competency (e.g., Domain 4).

8. Domain 4 Information-enabled Care

8a. Do you think this section provides adequate information?

Yes

No

If no, please provide details in the comment box below:

8b. Could this section be improved?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details in the comment box below:

9. Domain 5 Technology

9a. Do you think this section provides adequate information?

Yes

No

If no, please provide details in the comment box below:

9b. Could this section be improved?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details in the comment box below:

- Consider incorporating the following capability statement from the Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework (5.1) Understands the importance of maintain[ing] the *ability to communicate appropriately with other healthcare professionals and patients using a range of electronic means*
- Consider incorporating the following capability statement from the Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework (5.2) [Understands the need for] *timely reporting of errors and near misses and monitors outcomes*
- Suggest that the statement within the competency in 5.1 - *...identifies when the sub-optimal one is being used* may be overly ambitious in terms of what can be expected to be achieved through teaching at undergraduate level.
- Consideration of the need for digital health competencies to be understood in a multi/interdisciplinary setting and consideration for this competency to be taught also as part of interprofessional education (IPE).

10. Assessment

10a. Do you think this section provides adequate information?

Yes

No

If no, please provide details in the comment box below:

10b. Could this section be improved?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details in the comment box below:

We would suggest that further consideration be given to the practicalities of assessing against the framework, including where the student has limited exposure to health technologies in their practice placement, or the health technologies in place are limited/outdated. Some worked examples of how assessments could be completed against the framework may be useful to consider as a future additional resource.

11. NMBI welcomes any additional commentary that you may have on the draft standards and requirements for the digital health competencies for undergraduate education programmes

PSI is the independent statutory regulator of pharmacists and pharmacies in Ireland, and our role and responsibilities include setting standards for pharmacy education and training. In this regard, we are pleased to contribute to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland Public Consultation on the Draft Digital Health Competency Standards and Requirements for Undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery Education Programmes and to provide feedback which we hope will support this review.

As the healthcare system continues to be transformed by digital health technologies it is important that a digitally capable healthcare workforce, including graduates, with appropriate knowledge, skills and abilities, is available to support the digital health future and improve the delivery of effective, safe, and efficient patient care.

Overall, the Standards are well-written, well-structured and the language is clear. We note that the standards have been based on the All-Ireland Nursing & Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework, that in turn has been adapted from the Australian National Nursing and Midwifery Digital Health Capability Framework, and the competencies have therefore gone through considerable development and consideration. The domains and competency statements would appear to cover the broad spectrum of digital health competencies expected by health care professionals.

We welcome in particular where the standards and the framework include the broad principles and professional judgement nurses and midwives require in their decision-making around digital health usage.

Interprofessional collaboration has become firmly established as an important component within education and healthcare. In this regard it is important to consider the need for digital health competencies to be understood in a multi/interdisciplinary setting and consideration for this competency to be taught also as part of interprofessional education (IPE).

Technologies are likely to change many times throughout the career of current undergraduates, a strong foundation and understanding of the ethical and legal principles and responsibilities of health care professionals underpinning best practice on digital health usage, including critical evaluation, the need for evidence-based decision-making and judgement of reliability of information/data, will help to ensure nurses and midwives are equipped to make decisions around future digital health technologies that they will encounter.

We would add that the Standards would be most useful if understood within the context of challenges in practice. We would suggest that the standards include undergraduates being prepared for practical challenges and limitations in the current health system such as data accessibility, interoperability and the flow of data in real-time – in other words - those areas where there is currently a gap between best practice and current technological reality of the health service.

We would also suggest that the final document would benefit from some additions to the introduction, setting out the imperative for developing these Standards – why is it needed, who will use it, and how/who will it benefit.