

Update 1

Background

Published in 2006, *Measurement of Nursing and Midwifery Interventions: Guidance and Resource Pack* is a two-part publication comprising *An Evaluation of the Extent of Measurement of Nursing and Midwifery Interventions in Ireland (Part 1)* and *Development of Measurement of Nursing and Midwifery Interventions: Guidance and Resource Pack (Part 2)*.



Part 1 contains a report on the extent to which nurses and midwives in Ireland document their interventions and the outcomes of these interventions. The research conducted for this project showed that nurses and midwives working in a variety of healthcare settings were using instruments to gather data relating to the outcomes of their interventions. The use of such instruments may have been mainly driven by participation in service quality improvement/assurance schemes and were considered to have enhanced multidisciplinary collaboration and co-operation, as well as assisting nurses and midwives to articulate their contribution to healthcare provision.

Part 2 contains preliminary guidance and assistance to nurses, midwives and services seeking to determine what interventions to select and assess. Based on the findings of the research, it provides simple tips on selecting and implementing instruments to guide nursing and midwifery interventions. In addition, internet resources are listed relating to the instruments and themes most frequently identified in the research.



What happened next?

The National Council always intended that this guidance and resource pack would be updated to reflect new developments in the Irish health service and the evidence base relating to the topics and themes identified in Part 1. A year after its publication, a meeting was held with a group of interested parties from health service providers and third-level and service-based education providers to discuss how the material could be updated and shared most efficiently and effectively (key points from the discussion are shown in Box 1). The guidance and resource pack was acknowledged to be a useful base-line for future work in the area of interventions and outcomes measurement, with the development of a web-based resource being the most appropriate starting point in terms of accessibility.

Box 1. Updating the *Measurement of Nursing and Midwifery Interventions: Guidance and Resource Pack*: Discussion Points from a Meeting at the National Council, November 2007

Suggested content for a web-based resource

- A guide to internet basics and focused searching
- Links to other sites of interest or relevance
- Reliability and validity issues relating to adaptation of "tools"
- Updates on the literature review topics in Part 1

Related issues

- Evaluating, selecting and ensuring currency of websites and links
- User-friendliness and navigability of web-based resource
- Clinical governance
- Gaining and maintaining support
- Using individual judgement
- Change management
- Access to information and communications technology

Overview of health service developments since 2006

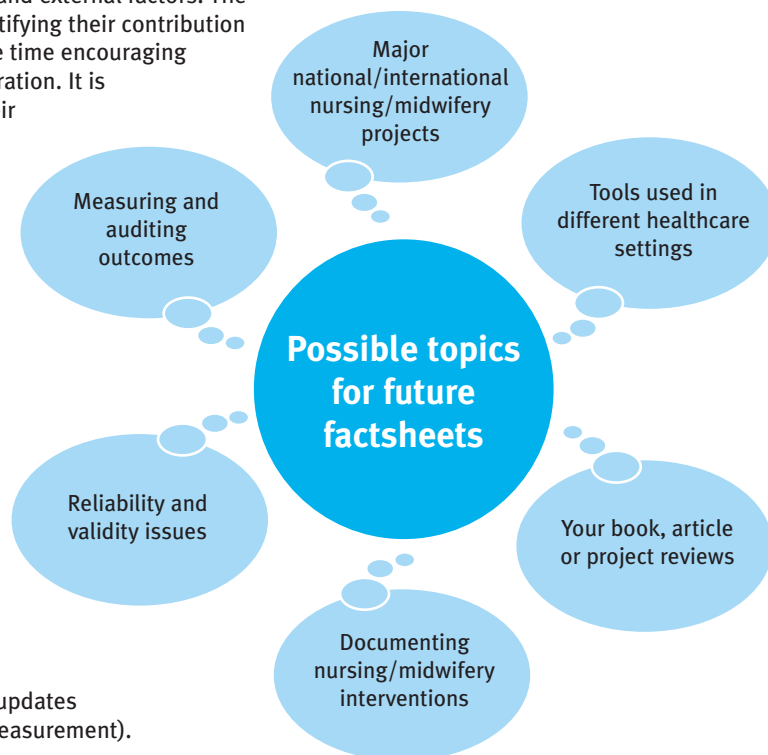
These are the main themes identified within the relevant Irish literature (Autumn 2006 to Spring 2009). It is by no means an exhaustive account and is intended as a guide to useful sources.

- **Trend in reducing reliance on acute hospitals and providing more services within primary, community and continuing care:** *Transformation Programme, 2007-2010* (HSE 2006); *A Vision for Change: Report of the Expert Group on Mental Health Policy* (Government of Ireland 2006); *Acute Hospital Bed Review: A Review of Acute Hospital Bed Use in Hospitals in the Republic of Ireland with Emergency Departments* (HSE 2007); *Acute Hospital Bed Capacity Review: A Preferred Health System in Ireland to 2020* (PA Consulting Group 2007); *Statement of Strategy, 2008-2010* (DoHC 2008); *Population Health Strategy* (HSE 2008)
- **Effective governance of clinical, corporate and other resources (including quality and cost-effectiveness):** *Quality Framework: Mental Health Service in Ireland* (Mental Health Commission 2006); *NHO Code of Practice for Healthcare Records Management* (HSE 2007); *Statement of Strategy, 2008-2010* (DoHC 2008); HIQA's draft standards in relation to infection prevention and control and residential services for people with disabilities; HIQA's quality standards in relation to hygiene services, residential services for older people, and symptomatic breast disease services; *The Economics of Mental Health Care in Ireland* (O'Shea and Kennelly 2008)
- **Population health approach to health care provision in response to changing demographics:** *SLÁN 2007: Survey of Lifestyle, Attitudes and Nutrition in Ireland. Dietary Habits of the Irish Population* (Harrington et al 2008); *National Intercultural Health Strategy, 2007-2012* (HSE 2008); *Statement of Strategy, 2008-2010* (DoHC 2008); *Population Health Strategy* (HSE 2008)
- **Evidence-based health care and service provision:** *The Irish Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children Study 2006* (NUI Galway 2007); *Chronic Illness Framework* (HSE 2008)
- **Patient safety:** *The Lourdes Hospital Inquiry* (Government of Ireland 2006); *The Control and Prevention of MRSA in Hospital and in the Community* (HSE 2007); *Building a Culture of Patient Safety* (DoHC 2008)

Where to from here?

The reality of health service provision and healthcare delivery is that nurses and midwives are working in a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral environment, which is influenced by many internal and external factors. The National Council aims to assist nurses and midwives in identifying their contribution to patient/client care and service delivery, while at the same time encouraging them to support and participate in multidisciplinary collaboration. It is important for nurses and midwives to be able to identify their interventions (data for which can sometimes be captured through the use of assessment tools, as shown in *An Evaluation of the Extent of Measurement of Nursing and Midwifery Interventions in Ireland*) and recognise how these fit into the patient's/client's journey through the healthcare system (*Improving the Patient Journey: Understanding Integrated Care Pathways*, National Council 2006).

In the next few months the National Council will produce a series of factsheets on topics of interest. Some aspects of these will be based on findings from our own work and the recent nursing, midwifery and healthcare literature; others will be based on ongoing consultation with nurses and midwives who are involved in particular areas of healthcare and or clinical decision-making. The topics will include key nursing/midwifery projects and interventions and outcomes measurement with specific client groups. The National Council's website (www.ncnm.ie) will be the main communication channel (a section of the website will be dedicated to information and updates about nursing and midwifery interventions and outcomes measurement).



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