

NMC sets new time limit for overseas decisions

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) is extending the time limit for decisions on applications from overseas nurses and midwives wishing to come and work in the UK.

The NMC is extending the deadline from one month to three months in order to bring overseas applications in line with those from the European Union.

Once the NMC has received all the relevant and correct forms and documents they will be assessed by an NMC assessor. A decision on the application will be made within three months of all the correct documentation being received.

The three-month time limit is in line with current EU legislation but the regulator will aim to make decisions well within this time frame wherever possible.

Sarah Thewlis, NMC Chief Executive and Registrar, said: "This change will help us to deal more effectively with the large number of applications we receive from overseas and EU nurses and midwives wishing to come and work in the UK. Our primary concern is protecting the public through the maintenance of professional standards."

The NMC would also like to remind all non-UK applicants they must read the information available on the regulator's web site carefully before applying.

A new guide for EU applicants has just been published on the web site and a new guide for non-EU applicants is due out soon. To view NMC application information, overseas and EU nurses and midwives should visit www.nmc-uk.org/overseasreg.

Ends

For media enquiries, please contact Dan Stern on 020 7333 6557 or Stuart Skyte on 020 7333 6558. www.nmc-uk.org

Press statement 32
20 May 2003

Notes for Editors:

The NMC is the UK regulator for nurses, midwives and health visitors. There are around 650,000 professionals on the register.