

**NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA**



**THE  
SCOPE OF NEONTAL NURSING PRACTICE  
IN KENYA**

**1<sup>st</sup> Edition  
2021**

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## FOREWORD

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The Nursing Council of Kenya is a regulatory body established by an Act of Parliament to make provision for nursing education and practice. The Council endeavors in its corporate responsibility to be a world-class regulator, providing best practice to be emulated by the region and beyond. Similarly, the mission of the Council is to ensure the provision of quality nurses training and maintenance of professional nursing practice through research and appropriate regulations. In order to fulfill the vision and mission, to realize its core mandate, the Council develops and reviews regulatory tools like the scope of practice to provide a practice framework that is in tandem with current needs, demands and context of the health care system.

This Scope of Practice document describes the range of interests, capabilities and professional activities of neonatal nurses in Kenya. It considers nurses as independent practitioners and provides examples of settings in which they are engaged. It is not intended to exclude the participation in activities outside of those delineated in the document. The overriding principle is that members of the nursing profession will provide only those services for which they are adequately prepared through their academic and clinical training and experience, and that their practice is consistent with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Nurses.

This scope of practice defines the limits of care and legal boundaries of the neonatal nursing practice. It spells out what the neonatal nurse can be held accountable for in the course of practice. This document is the first and its development has been influenced by several changes taking place in the country, health sector in general and nursing in particular.

This document was developed through a consultative process by key stakeholders from various health institutions and makes reference to Nurses Act Cap 257, NCK Strategic plan

2017-2022, Scope of practice for Nurses and Midwives in Kenya- Entry level 4<sup>th</sup> edition and curriculum for neonatal nursing

The document elaborates on the scopes for all levels of neonatal nurses in the country and can be applied in all health settings. We believe that this document will be of great benefit to the users in all practice settings.

**Prof Eunice Ndirangu- Mugo**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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Gertrude's Children's Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, KMTC Kisumu, NNAK Neonatal Chapter, Kabarak University, KNH School of Nursing, KNH, Aga Khan University Hospital

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ANP</b>	- Advanced Nursing Practice
<b>CPAP</b>	- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure
<b>CVC</b>	- Central Venous Catheter
<b>ECMO</b>	- Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation
<b>ICT</b>	- Information Communication Technology
<b>IO</b>	- Intraosseous
<b>IV</b>	- Intravenous
<b>KRNeon</b>	- Kenya Registered Neonatal Nurse
<b>MOH</b>	- Ministry of Health
<b>MScANP</b>	- Masters of Science in Advanced Nursing Practice
<b>NCK</b>	- Nursing Council of Kenya
<b>NGT</b>	- Nasogastric Tube
<b>OGT</b>	- Oro gastric Tube
<b>NEWS</b>	- Neonatal Early Warning Signs
<b>PhD</b>	- Doctor of Philosophy
<b>TPN</b>	- Total Parenteral Nutrition

## SECTION I:

### SECTION II: LEVELS OF NEONATAL NURSING PREPARATION IN KENYA

#### 1. Higher diploma in neonatal Nursing (KRNeonN)

In this programme the nurse has a post-basic diploma in neonatal nursing. In addition to the scope of a general registered nurse, these nurses have other competencies, which are in line with their field of specialization.

#### 2. Post-graduate diploma in neonatal Nursing

In this programme the nurse has a post-graduate diploma in neonatal nursing. In addition to the scope of a general registered nurse, these nurses have other competencies which are in line with their field of specialization.

#### 3. Masters in - Neonatal Nursing (MSc-neonatal nursing)

In this programme the neonatal nurse is prepared at masters' level. One has a specialization in neonatal nursing. In addition to being prepared as a Clinical Practitioner, Nurse Educator, Manager/leader, Counselor and Researcher, this nurse specialist can engage in advanced nurse practice (ANP).

#### **Specific Scope of Practice for Neonatal Nurse**

#### **Scope of Practice for the Higher Diploma in Neonatal Nurse**

##### **Applicability**

This scope shall be applicable to persons trained in Higher Diploma in neonatal nursing.

The nurse will;

1. Assess, diagnose, manage and evaluate health needs of neonates and refer to appropriate levels of care
2. Identify and assess children with special needs, including those with chronic illness, disabilities and abused
3. Provide emergency care to neonates to include Cardio-Pulmonary resuscitation and endotracheal intubation



4. Assess, initiate and manage patient on phototherapy accordingly
5. Asses the need for nasogastric tube (NGT) feeding and gastrostomy tube feeding in neonates and implement accordingly
6. Perform Silverman Anderson Assessment and intervene
7. Support exclusive breastfeeding, cup feeding and manage the Human milk bank
8. Prescribe and administer the drug via appropriate route except intrathecal and intracardial routes
9. Administer Surfactant
10. In collaboration with the multidisciplinary team administer therapeutic diet to include total parenteral nutrition
11. Perform continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)
12. Administer fluids, medications and monitor intraosseous fluid therapy
13. Perform and monitor neonates on Mechanical Ventilation
14. Perform intravenous (IV) and arterial cannulations in neonates
15. Support in umbilical catheterization
16. Support in exchange blood transfusion as per manual of clinical procedure and other certified manuals.
17. Implement nursing care models/ pathways for neonates, families and communities.
18. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health team in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes
19. Support in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to Neonatal care services

## **Scope of Practice for Nurses with Post-Graduate Diploma in Neonatal Nursing**

### **Applicability**

This scope shall be applicable to persons trained in post-graduate diploma in neonatal nursing.

1. Assess, diagnose, manage and evaluate health needs of neonates and refer to appropriate levels of care
2. Identify and assess children with special needs, including those with chronic illness, disabilities and abused
3. Provide emergency care to neonates to include Cardio-Pulmonary resuscitation and endotracheal intubation
4. Assess, initiate and manage patient on phototherapy accordingly
5. Asses the need for nasogastric tube (NGT) feeding and gastrostomy tube feeding in neonates and implement accordingly
6. Perform Silverman Anderson Assessment and intervene
7. Supervise breastfeeding and manage the Human milk ban Support exclusive breastfeeding, cup feeding and manage the Human milk bank
8. Prescribe and administer the drug via appropriate route except intrathecal and intracardial routes
9. Administer Surfactant
10. Administer therapeutic diet in collaboration with the health care team to include total parenteral nutrition
11. Asses need for initiate and perform continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP).
12. Administer fluids, medications and monitor intraosseous fluid therapy
13. Perform and monitor neonates on Mechanical Ventilation
14. Perform intravenous (IV) and arterial cannulations in neonates

15. Perform exchange blood transfusion as per manual of clinical procedure and other certified manuals.
16. Implement and evaluate nursing care models/ pathways for neonates, families and communities.
17. Perform umbilical catheterization
18. Interpret and utilize echocardiogram and ultrasonography results in neonates
19. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health team in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes
20. Develop and implement policies and guidelines that promote access to neonatal care services

### **SCOPE OF PRACTICE FOR MASTERS (NEONATAL NURSE)**

#### **Applicability**

This scope shall be applicable to neonatal registered nurses who have been trained at the Masters level (clinical) and have acquired advanced knowledge, skills and competencies in neonatal nursing. Their competencies build on those obtained from the Neonatal RN/BScN/M.

1. Assess, diagnose, manage and evaluate health needs of neonates and refer to appropriate levels of care
2. Identify and assess children with special needs, including those with chronic illness, disabilities and abused
3. Provide emergency care to neonates to include Cardio-Pulmonary resuscitation and endotracheal intubation
4. Assess, initiate and manage patient on phototherapy accordingly

5. Asses the need for NGT feeding and gastrostomy tube feeding in neonates and implement accordingly
6. Perform Silverman Anderson Assessment and intervene
7. Support exclusive breastfeeding, cup feeding and manage the Human milk bank
8. Prescribe and administer the drug via appropriate route except intrathecal and intracardial routes
9. Prescribe and administer Surfactant
10. Prescribe and administer therapeutic diet to include total parenteral nutrition in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team
11. Asses need for, initiate and perform continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP).
12. Prescribe, administer fluids, and monitor intraosseous fluid therapy
13. Perform and monitor neonates on Mechanical Ventilation
14. Perform arterial cannulations in neonates
15. Prescribe and perform exchange blood transfusion as per manual of clinical procedure and other certified manuals.
16. Initiate ,direct ,implement and evaluate nursing care models/ pathways for neonates, families and communities.
17. Perform echocardiogram and ultrasonography in neonates
18. Order and conduct umbilical catheterization in neonates
19. Provide technical assistance through consultancy in neonatal nursing
20. Collaborate with multidisciplinary health team in making ethical decisions regarding care outcomes
21. Initiate and direct development of policies and guidelines that promote access to neonatal care services

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