Nursing and Midwifery Council

Sent via email to: consultations@nmc-uk.org

27 June 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

Standards of proficiency for nursing associates

The British Medical Association (BMA) is a voluntary professional association and independent trade union, representing doctors and medical students from all branches of medicine across the UK and supporting them to deliver the highest standards of patient care. The Association welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Nursing associates consultation, and would in particular like to comment on the draft Standards of proficiency for nursing associates.

The BMA’s General Practitioners Committee believes that the omission of being able to administer medicines by intramuscular injection has implications for general practice, in particular for the administration of vaccines, adrenaline, vitamin B12 and for responding to a future flu pandemic. The relevant section is Standard 10, To manage medicines safely, nursing associates must be able to demonstrate the ability to:

\begin{itemize}
  \item [d)] administer medication via oral, topical and inhalation routes.
  \item [e)] administer injections using subcutaneous and intradermal routes and manage injection equipment
\end{itemize}

In addition, the inability to give an intramuscular injection would prevent Nursing Associates from responding appropriately in the situation described in Standard 1:

\begin{itemize}
  \item [i)] recognise and take immediate action to respond in an emergency to burns, choking, haemorrhage, neck injury, fitting, seizures and anaphylaxis.
\end{itemize}

We hope that our submission is useful – please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Yours sincerely

Angela Kyle
Head, Committee Services
Policy Directorate

Chief Executive: Keith Ward