



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

Oifig an Cheannaire Oibríochtaí,  
Na Seirbhísí Míchumais/An Rannán Cúram Sóisialta,  
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Deputy Niall Collins  
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Dublin 2.  
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Dear Deputy Collins,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following parliamentary question, which was submitted to this department for response.

#### **PQ 52373/19**

*To ask the Minister for Health if a psychiatric nurse can work with persons with disabilities; and if he will make a statement on the matter.*

#### **HSE Response.**

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) is the independent, statutory body which regulates the nursing and midwifery professions in Ireland. Every practicing nurse and midwife (including Registered Psychiatric Nurses) must be registered on the NMBI active register.

The NMBI sets the standards and advises on how nurses and midwives should provide care to patients, their families and society.

Nurses must work within the NMBI Scope of Practice. In determining their scope of practice, nurses and midwives must make judgements about their competency to carry out a role or activity. Each nurse and midwife is responsible for their level of competency, and must take measures to develop and maintain the competence necessary for their professional practice.

For more information about NMBI and its functions see: [www.NMBI.ie](http://www.NMBI.ie)

Guidance on the NMBI Scope of Practice can be found at:

<https://www.nmbi.ie/nmbi/media/NMBI/Publications/Scope-of-Nursing-Midwifery-Practice-Framework.pdf?ext=.pdf>

#### **Practice Setting**

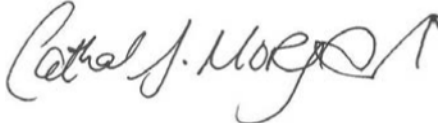
The practice setting refers to both the place in which nurses and midwives work and the nature of the working environment. It includes the kind of service being offered and the complexity of care required by the patient. Nursing staff work in a variety of roles, settings and provide professional care to a wide variety of people with differing care needs. To give an example, in the HSE psychiatric nurses work in

Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and they would deal with children who have a disability and are presenting with mental health issues. Other examples include qualified psychiatric nurses who as part of a historic institutionalised medical model remained in disability services and are now working with individuals living in residential homes or who have decongregated to community based living. As stated, nurses must determine their scope of practice and must make judgements about their competency to carry out a role or activity.

Relevant practice guidance, legislation, regulation and Policies, Procedures and Guidelines (PPGs PGs) need to be in place to support nurses and midwives in whatever practice setting they operate.

Just to note that the model of care in the disability services is transitioning to a social care model and staffing requirements have changed in later years now incorporating more Health Care Assistants.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Cathal Morgan,  
Head of Operations - Disability Services,  
Community Operations**