



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF STOMAL THERAPY NURSES
INC

STANDARDS
OF
STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE

5th EDITION

2022

Acknowledgements

The development of the original Standards of Stomal Therapy Nursing Practice was undertaken by the Education and Professional Development (E+PD) Sub-Committee of the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN). These Standards have been periodically revised to consider the broadening role of the Stomal Therapy Nurse (STN) and to reflect evolving Australian registration standards, standards for practice, codes and guidelines.

First Edition 1991

Second Edition 1997

Third Edition 2007

Fourth Edition 2013

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Stomal therapy nursing is a multifaceted and specialised area of practice related to stoma, wound and continence care provided in a variety of acute, outpatient and community health care contexts.

The Fifth Edition of the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN) Standards of Stomal Therapy Nursing Practice has been developed to be used by Stomal Therapy Nurses to optimise and standardise the delivery of stomal therapy nursing across all practice settings and to ensure that the specialty continues to be responsive to the needs of the community and the profession.

The AASTN Standards of Stomal Therapy Nursing Practice (2022) have been aligned to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Registered Nurse Standards for Practice (2016). Each Standard has accompanying criteria that specify how the Standard is demonstrated, however the criteria and applications are not exhaustive and are meant to enable rather than limit the development of individual Stomal Therapy Nurse's scope of practice.

The NMBA Registered Nurse Standards for Practice (2016) consist of the following seven standards:

1. Thinks critically and analyses nursing practice.
2. Engages in therapeutic and professional relationships.
3. Maintains the capability for practice.
4. Comprehensively conducts assessments.
5. Develops a plan for nursing practice.
6. Provides safe, appropriate and responsive quality nursing practice.
7. Evaluates outcomes to inform nursing practice.

Glossary

Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses (AASTN)

The AASTN is the peak professional body for Stomal Therapy Nursing in Australia. We invite nursing, medical and allied health professionals and industry members with an interest in Stomal Therapy Nursing (wound, ostomy and continence) to join our association. The AASTN is committed to excellence and innovation in Stomal Therapy Nursing practice by the provision of guidelines, Standards and education as well as advocating on behalf of our profession and those that require our services.

Stomal Therapy Nurse

A Registered Nurse who has completed a recognised Stomal Therapy Nursing education programme whose scope of practice encompasses knowledge and skills in Stomal Therapy Nursing (wound, ostomy and continence).

Scope of practice

Scope of practice is that in which nurses are educated, competent to perform and permitted by law. The actual scope of practice is influenced by the context in which the nurse practises, the health needs of people, the level of competence and confidence of the nurse and the policy requirements of the service provider. (NMBA, 2016, p.6)

The Person

Person or people is used in these Standards to refer to those individuals who have entered into a therapeutic and/or professional relationship with the Stomal Therapy Nurse. These individuals will sometimes be health care consumers, at other times they may be colleagues or students, this will vary depending on who is the focus of practice at the time. Therefore, the words person or people include all the patients, clients, consumers, families, carers, groups and/or communities that are within the Stomal Therapy Nurse's scope and context of practice. (Adapted from NMBA, 2016, p.6)

STANDARD 1

Thinks critically and analyses nursing practice.

The Stomal Therapy Nurse uses a variety of thinking strategies and the best available evidence in making decisions and providing safe, quality nursing practice within person-centred and evidence-based frameworks.

NURSING MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (NMBA) PRACTICE STANDARD	APPLICATION OF NMBA STANDARDS TO STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE
<p>1.1 Accesses, analyses and uses the best available evidence that includes research findings for safe quality practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses research appraisal skills to assess and critique research literature and applies this knowledge to improve stomal therapy nursing practice • Demonstrates an understanding of national and international trends in stomal therapy nursing research and knowledge • Demonstrates a high level of proficiency in integrating contemporary knowledge and evidence to effectively provide a range of interventions to meet the multiple health needs of people in the context of an interdisciplinary approach to care
<p>1.2 Develops practice through reflection on experiences, knowledge, actions, feelings and beliefs to identify how these shape practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops and implements processes for critical self-reflection and for obtaining feedback from the person requiring care, peers and interdisciplinary colleagues on all aspects of stomal therapy nursing practice • Participates constructively in performance review processes to develop and evaluate their stomal therapy nursing knowledge and skills
<p>1.3 Respects all cultures and experiences, which includes responding to the role of family and community that underpin the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people of other cultures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides culturally appropriate stomal therapy nursing practice that demonstrates respect and understanding of people's culture, beliefs and preferences • Develops collaborative therapeutic relationships with individuals and their family/significant others to anticipate and meet their multiple care needs across the continuum of stomal therapy nursing practice
<p>1.4 Complies with legislation, common law, policies, guidelines and other standards or requirements relevant to the context of practice when making decisions</p> <p>1.5 Uses ethical frameworks when making decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies legal and ethical decision-making in the planning and implementation of stomal therapy nursing practice • Practises in accordance with the International Council for Nurses' Code of Ethics and other relevant professional standards that inform the fundamental rights and behaviours of nursing professionals toward all providers and recipients of nursing care • Demonstrates ability to reflect and develop strategy/practice as a result of evaluation within a local policy/procedure framework • Critically evaluates policies and guidelines that influence health promotion, assessment, care and management • Mentors other nurses and health professionals in the application of specific standards, guidelines, regulations and/or legislation with a focus on stomal therapy care related health issues

<p>1.6 Maintains accurate, comprehensive and timely documentation of assessments, planning, decision-making, actions and evaluations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the accurate and comprehensive exchange of information between the interdisciplinary health care team members, regarding all aspects of a person's stomal therapy care plan
<p>1.7 Contributes to quality improvement and relevant research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies, designs and participates in research, quality improvement activities and innovation related to stomal therapy nursing care to develop new knowledge and skills, evaluate outcomes and improve service delivery • Critiques practice to seek opportunities for continuous improvement

STANDARD 2

Engages in therapeutic and professional relationships.

The Stomal Therapy Nurse's practice is based on purposefully engaging in effective therapeutic and professional relationships. This includes collegial generosity in the context of mutual trust and respect in professional relationships.

NURSING MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (NMBA) PRACTICE STANDARD	APPLICATION OF NMBA STANDARDS TO STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE
<p>2.1 Establishes, sustains and concludes relationships in a way that differentiates the boundaries between professional and personal relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes an environment conducive to the development of therapeutic, professional relationships, enabling holistic stomal therapy nursing care to be undertaken • Engages in therapeutic interactions with the person, their family/significant others and other members of the health care team to optimise stomal therapy nursing care
<p>2.2 Communicates effectively, and is respectful of a person's dignity, culture, values, beliefs and rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodates diverse cultural, gender and age-related needs of individuals or groups relevant to their stomal therapy nursing care • Uses appropriate strategies to promote an individual's self-esteem, dignity, integrity and comfort, especially considering the personal nature of stomal therapy nursing care
<p>2.3 Recognises that people are the experts in the experience of their life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies a person-centred approach to stomal therapy nursing care • Respecting people's ownership of their health information, rights and preferences while protecting their dignity and empowering choice
<p>2.4 Provides support and directs people to resources to optimise health related decisions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in education of individuals or groups of people and health care workers related to attitudes/ practices /standards relevant to stomal therapy nursing care • Demonstrates knowledge and has active involvement in the development of appropriate and quality resources that will support the person in understanding and optimising their health-related decisions
<p>2.5 Advocates on behalf of people in a manner that respects the person's autonomy and legal capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for the rights of individuals and groups to enable them to optimise their health status • Promotes a person's right to access timely and quality stomal therapy nursing care, irrespective of their personal, social or economic vulnerabilities
<p>2.6 Uses delegation, supervision, coordination, consultation and referrals in professional relationships to achieve improved health outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the roles and scope of practice of various members of the health care team • Delegates and supervises stomal therapy nursing care as appropriate to address the person's care needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinates stomal therapy nursing care, collaborates, and where necessary, refers to other health professionals to optimise health outcomes
<p>2.7 Actively fosters a culture of safety and learning that includes engaging with health professionals and others, to share knowledge and practice that supports person-centred care</p> <p>2.8 Participates in and/or leads collaborative practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates team leadership in stomal therapy nursing related health issues • Actively facilitates the person's involvement as a partner in the health care team to optimise their health outcomes • Participates effectively in relevant health care teams to plan, implement and evaluate strategies to meet the needs of the person who requires stomal therapy nursing care
<p>2.9 Reports notifiable conduct of health professionals, health workers and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is aware of, and acts in accordance with professional standards and codes of ethics, especially considering the personal nature of stomal therapy nursing practice

STANDARD 3

Maintains the capability for practice.

Stomal Therapy Nurses, as regulated health professionals, are responsible and accountable for ensuring they are safe, and have the capability for practice. This includes ongoing self-management and responding when there is concern about other health professionals' capability for practice. Stomal Therapy Nurses are responsible for their professional development and contribute to the development of others. They are also responsible for providing information and education to enable people to make decisions and take action in relation to their health.

NURSING MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (NMBA) PRACTICE STANDARD	APPLICATION OF NMBA STANDARDS TO STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE
<p>3.1 Considers and responds in a timely manner to the health and wellbeing of self and others in relation to the capability for practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises personal and colleagues' needs for debriefing and support to maintain their wellbeing, knowledge and skills to practice safely
<p>3.2 Provides the information and education required to enhance people's control over health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides education to enable people to be active participants in their care and engage in self-management of health-related problems where appropriate to achieve optimal health outcomes across the continuum of care • Assesses and promotes health literacy to enhance a person's understanding of their health so that they can exercise choice and control over the care they receive • Develops and uses resources from relevant sources to promote informed, positive attitudes about health
<p>3.3 Uses a lifelong learning approach for continuing professional development of self and others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies professional learning needs of self and others through critical reflection and works towards addressing those learning needs in relation to stomal therapy nursing knowledge and skills • Demonstrates a commitment to maintaining and extending knowledge and skills in stomal therapy nursing through active participation in, and advocacy for, a culture of reflective practice, continuous professional development and evidence-based practice • Maintains a record of continuing professional development activities and aims to have a focus on stomal therapy related practice
<p>3.4 Accepts accountability for decisions, actions, behaviours and responsibilities inherent in their role, and for the actions of others to whom they have delegated responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepts responsibility for personal actions and possesses qualities such as emotional intelligence, self-awareness, self-reflection, self-management, professionalism and self-development • Conducts stomal therapy nursing practice in accordance with professional expectations, legal requirements and nursing codes of ethics • Demonstrates a commitment to occupational health and safety

<p>3.5 Seeks and responds to practice review and feedback</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks feedback from people and colleagues related to quality of stomal therapy nursing practice • Incorporates feedback and develops achievable professional goals to continuously improve stomal therapy nursing knowledge, skills and quality of practice
<p>3.6 Actively engages with the profession</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participates in the development of stomal therapy nursing practice through active involvement in the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses, the workplace, consumer organisations and peak bodies • Uses high-level communication skills to disseminate nursing knowledge through presentations, publications and active clinical discussions • Demonstrates a high level of interpersonal skills and ability to communicate and liaise effectively and appropriately with staff, individuals and external stakeholders in a diverse range of situations • Demonstrates support of evidence-based practice within the clinical area through participation in policy, procedure and guideline development • Actively participates in promotion of, and compliance with, the Australian National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
<p>3.7 Identifies and promotes the integral role of nursing practice and the profession in influencing better health outcomes for people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes and promotes the contribution and role development of the Stomal Therapy Nurse to improve outcomes for people who require stomal therapy nursing services • Contributes to initiatives within the profession, health care team, specialist nursing organisations and peak bodies related to stomal therapy promotion and services • Demonstrates leadership in strategic planning within the stomal therapy nursing / health service and advocates for the recognition and development of stomal therapy nursing services and practice

STANDARD 4

Comprehensively conducts assessments.

Stomal Therapy Nurses accurately conduct comprehensive and systematic assessments. They analyse information and data and communicate outcomes as the basis for practice.

NURSING MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (NMBA) PRACTICE STANDARD	APPLICATION OF NMBA STANDARDS TO STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE
4.1 Conducts assessments that are holistic as well as culturally appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a person-centred approach that identifies cultural, spiritual, social and psychological matters in consultation with individuals and their family/significant others to guide health assessment with a stomal therapy nursing focus
4.2 Uses a range of assessment techniques to systematically collect relevant and accurate information and data to inform practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates expertise in a range of evidence-based, advanced health assessment skills within the stomal therapy nursing scope of practice; including but not limited to, history taking, physical examination, stoma assessment and understanding relevant investigations• Accurately documents and interprets the findings of a stomal therapy nursing health assessment within the individual's scope of practice to inform treatment and care management priorities• Integrates the findings and data from the person-centred assessment, assessment tools and relevant investigations to develop an individualised stomal therapy nursing care plan that promotes well-being and quality of life
4.3 Works in partnership to determine factors that affect, or potentially affect, the health and wellbeing of people and populations to determine priorities for action and/or referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Considers possible and probable consequences of the person's care journey and clinical needs and the impact on their stomal health status and general wellbeing and acts to support appropriately• Establishes effective communication skills to maintain a therapeutic relationship to assess and support the person's understanding of factors affecting their stomal health status, options and goals as well as their preference for information and referral to other health professionals and/or services as indicated
4.4 Assesses the resources available to inform planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of available resources and skills to inform a concise and inclusive plan to support a person's stomal health care• Demonstrates proficiency in technology expertise and skills to aid assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of stomal therapy nursing care

STANDARD 5

Develops a plan for nursing practice.

The Stomal Therapy Nurse is responsible for the planning and communication of nursing practice. Agreed plans are developed in partnership. They are based on the Stomal Therapy Nurse's appraisal of comprehensive, relevant information, and evidence that is documented and communicated.

NURSING MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (NMBA) PRACTICE STANDARD	APPLICATION OF NMBA STANDARDS TO STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE
5.1 Uses assessment data and best available evidence to develop a plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses analytic and interpretive skills and best available evidence to provide comprehensive, safe, accurate, systematic, evidence-based nursing care with professional autonomy in all practice settings
5.2 Collaboratively constructs nursing practice plans until contingencies, options, priorities, goals, actions, outcomes and timeframes are agreed with the relevant persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively promotes the person and their family/significant others engagement as active participants in the development of stomal therapy nursing care goals and plans• Develops and documents individualised stomal therapy nursing care plans which accurately reflect care requirements, respect the person's preferences and accommodate their abilities and resources• Refers to and incorporates data from other interdisciplinary healthcare professionals when planning stomal therapy nursing care• Identifies when referrals are required to other health care professionals• Justifies nursing decisions in the specific context of stomal therapy nursing care
5.3 Documents, evaluates and modifies plans accordingly to facilitate the agreed outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Documents and reviews nursing assessment findings, diagnoses, clinical decisions and care plans which address and optimise the person's stomal therapy care needs and goals
5.4 Plans and negotiates how practice will be evaluated and the time frame of engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluates the person's response to the stomal therapy nursing care plan with strategies for timely review, service re-engagement or discharge• Documents nursing management to ensure continuity of care between health care settings
5.5 Coordinates resources effectively and efficiently for planned actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocates and negotiates for optimum resources to meet the person's stomal therapy nursing care needs• Aims to use resources in an ethical, sustainable and environmentally sound manner

STANDARD 6:

Provides safe, appropriate and responsive quality nursing practice.

Stomal Therapy Nurses provide, and may delegate, quality and ethical, goal-directed actions. These are based on comprehensive and systematic assessment and the best available evidence to achieve planned and agreed outcomes.

NURSING MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (NMBA) PRACTICE STANDARD	APPLICATION OF NMBA STANDARD TO STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE
<p>6.1 Provides comprehensive, safe, quality practice to achieve agreed goals and outcomes that are responsive to the nursing needs of people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates with the person to build shared goals for optimal stomal therapy outcomes • Accesses evidenced-based resources and expert advice to support the person and their family/significant others in achieving their goals and desired outcomes and to ensure safe, high-quality care • Uses a person-centred framework to guide and evaluate stomal therapy management • Takes measures to minimise the person’s distress and help them identify strategies to cope with changes in their health
<p>6.2 Practises within their scope of practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates autonomous and self-directed practice • Demonstrates the ability to define the boundaries of their individual scope of stomal therapy nursing practice • Demonstrates knowledge of, and practises within, the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Code of Professional Conduct and International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics for Nurses • Practises within their role description and employer’s policies to maintain a high level of safe, appropriate and quality stomal therapy nursing care
<p>6.3 Appropriately delegates aspects of practice to registered or enrolled nurses and others, according to the nurse’s scope of practice or others’ clinical or non-clinical roles</p> <p>6.4 Provides effective, timely direction and supervision to ensure that delegated practice is safe and correct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to delegation, assesses the knowledge, skill and scope of practice of the delegate • Communicates appropriately the aspect of stomal therapy nursing care to be delegated • Monitors and evaluates the implementation and outcomes of the stomal therapy care that has been delegated • Gives appropriate and timely direction and feedback regarding outcomes of stomal therapy management to the delegate
<p>6.5 Practises in accordance with relevant nursing and health guidelines, standards, regulations and legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates knowledge of and practises within the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Registered Nurse Standards for Practice, Code of Professional Conduct and International Council of Nurses Code of Ethics for Nurses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiates, participates in, and advises on the development and/or review of policies, procedures and guidelines related to stomal therapy practice
<p>6.6 Uses the appropriate processes to identify and report potential and actual risk related system issues and where practice may be below the expected standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates leadership in clinical governance by identifying gaps between current practice and best practice and updating policies and guidelines related to stomal therapy nursing accordingly • Conducts risk assessments and audits of practice • Supports activities that contribute to improvements in the quality and safety of stomal therapy nursing practice

STANDARD 7

Evaluates outcomes to inform nursing practice.

Stomal Therapy Nurses take responsibility for the evaluation of practice based on agreed priorities, goals, plans and outcomes and revises practice accordingly.

NURSING MIDWIFERY BOARD OF AUSTRALIA (NMBA) PRACTICE STANDARD	APPLICATION OF NMBA STANDARDS TO STOMAL THERAPY NURSING PRACTICE
7.1 Evaluates and monitors progress towards the expected goals and outcomes 7.2 Revises the plan based on the evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviews the person's progress towards the expected stomal therapy priorities, goals and outcomes with the person and their family/significant others• Evaluates the effectiveness of stomal therapy nursing care plans against established standards and guidelines and modifies the care plan to meet revised priorities, goals and outcomes
7.3 Determines, documents and communicates further priorities, goals and outcomes with the relevant persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrates a range of approaches to continually build and maintain collaborative networks that enhance stomal therapy nursing care and acknowledges the contributions of others• Actively participates in interdisciplinary and/or team meetings and (where appropriate) coordinates the person's stomal therapy nursing care across multi-agency and interdisciplinary lines• Clarifies, documents and communicates the person's revised stomal therapy nursing care plan, goals and outcomes with relevant persons

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