Nurse Delegated Emergency Care: Departmental Readiness for Implementation Assessment Tool

### Purpose

The purpose of the assessment tool is to evaluate implementation readiness for the Nurse Delegated Emergency Care (NDEC) model of care. This assessment tool is designed for Emergency Department (ED) and / or facility managers, and for prospective Registered Nurses (RNs) undertaking NDEC.

### Assessment Tool

## General Items

Communication channels with the Emergency Care Institute (ECI) established

Implementation team for site formed

Pre-implementation *snap-shot* quality audit completed (separate instructions and audit tool)

## Registered Nurse Pre-requisites Completed

The listed education programs (or an equivalent as established by the relevant Local Health District) are pre-requisites for all RNs undertaking NDEC training. These pre-requisites include

Department of Health and Ageing *Triage Education Kit* or an equivalent formal triage training program.

Current competency in rural / remote triage including satisfactory completion of a triage practice audit.

New South Wales (NSW) Ministry of Health (MoH) Between the Flags awareness training[[1]](#footnote-1).

NSW MoH *Detecting Deterioration, Evaluation, Treatment, Escalation and Communication in Teams* (D.E.T.E.C.T.) program[[2]](#footnote-2).

NSW MoH *D.E.T.E.C.T. Junior* program[[3]](#footnote-3)

NSW MoH *Introduction, Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation* (ISBAR) *for Clinical Handover* e-learning[[4]](#footnote-4)

*NSW Paediatric Clinical Practice Guidelines* e-learning[[5]](#footnote-5)

## Registered Nurse Readiness

*Complete for all prospective NDEC Registered Nurses (RNs). Assess each item for RN* ***‘confidence’*** *(how the individual RN perceives their practice in the particular skill) and ‘****competence’*** *(the RN is deemed to have appropriate knowledge and skill through work practices, training records and / or formal assessment methods).*

All prospective NDEC RNs have confidence and competence in skills and knowledge for the following areas

Triage processes and compliance with the application of the Australasian Triage Scale

Focused nursing patient assessment

Assessment and nursing management of minor burns

Basic assessment and nursing management of minor / low risk eye problems

Fitting of crutches and providing instructions on use to patients / carers

Nursing assessment of limbs

Pain assessment and pain management strategies relevant to the ED

Using medication Standing Orders for medication administration (medico-legal and documentation standards)

Nursing assessment of wounds and subsequent nursing management

Assessment and management of paediatric presentations to the ED

## Actions

If any item is identified as *not yet complete* the following actions are suggested

* **Communication with the ECI** – contact the ECI Nursing Project Officer via

[dwight.robinson@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dwight.robinson@aci.health.nsw.gov.au) or (w) 02 9464 4679

* **Forming an implementation team** – as a minimum for NDEC implementation, it is recommended that the local implementation team consist of a medical lead (usually a local general practitioner) a nursing lead (usually a departmental, facility or network manager) a Local Health District executive (with delegation authority) and a clinical nurse representative (usually a clinical nurse educator or clinical nurse consultant). Contact the ECI for assistance if needed.
* **Pre-implementation audit** – consult the audit guidelines. Contact the ECI for further assistance if required
* **Registered Nurse pre-requisites are incomplete** – consult the NDEC skills mapping document for links to further education content. Contact Local Health District nurse education representatives (clinical nurse educator / nurse educator / clinical nurse consultant) and agree on up-skilling or skills refresher regime consistent with existing local processes.
* **Registered Nurse Readiness** – if a deficit is noted in any area, consult the NDEC skills mapping document which links to existing resources that will serve as relevant material for revision. If unable to access material, or alternative / additional material is required, contact the ECI for ongoing assistance

## Summary

This guidance is provided as a convenient pre-assessment checklist. In general, it is anticipated that existing RN knowledge and skills will be sufficient to meet the NDEC requisite skills. Should skills update be required, this will be readily accomplished within local facility and LHD educational and continuing professional development processes.

The ECI may be contacted for assistance with any aspect of NDEC implementation via the Nursing Project Officer: Mr Dwight Robinson ([dwight.robinson@aci.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dwight.robinson@aci.health.nsw.gov.au) or (w) 02 9464 4679)

1. Available via <http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/programs/between-the-flags> or <http://nswhealth.moodle.com.au> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Available via <http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/programs/between-the-flags> or <http://nswhealth.moodle.com.au> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Available via <http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/programs/between-the-flags> or <http://nswhealth.moodle.com.au> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Available via <http://nswhealth.moodle.com.au> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Available via <http://doh.edmore.com.au/> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)