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MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

ORDER
ON APPROVAL OF THE DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

9 July 2021 No. V-1255
Vilnius

In accordance with Paragraph 11 of Article 53 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania:

1. I approve the Descriptor of the Study Field of Nursing and Midwifery (enclosed).

2. I determine that the higher education institutions have to adjust their study programmes to the Descriptor of the Study Field of Nursing and Midwifery approved by Clause 1 hereby until 01 September 2022.

3. I recognize Order No. V-803 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 July 2015 “On Approval of the Descriptor of the Study Field of Nursing” as invalid.

Minister of Education, Science and Sport Jurgita Šiugždinienė

APPROVED
by Order No. V-1255 of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania of 9 July 2021

DESCRIPTOR OF THE STUDY FIELD OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Descriptor of the Study Field of Nursing and Midwifery (hereinafter – Descriptor) regulates the special requirements for the study programmes in the study field of Nursing and Midwifery (G08) that belongs to the group of study fields of Health Sciences (G). The Descriptor regulates the study field of Nursing and Midwifery (hereinafter – field of nursing and midwifery) in the scope not covered by the General Requirements for the Studies approved by Order No. V-1168 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania of 30 December 2016 "On approval of the General Requirements for the Studies."

2. The Descriptor was prepared in accordance with the Law on Nursing Practice and Midwifery Practice of the Republic of Lithuania, publication of the WHO Regional Office for Europe of 2020 "Strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery towards Health 2020 goals"
(https://lsmuni.lt/media/dynamic/files/12978/finalversionesd03092015_lt_jm_baigtas3_iz_1130.pdf), and taking into consideration the Bologna Process 2020 – The European Higher Education Area in the new decade and the Framework of qualifications for the European Higher Education Area 2018). The following international documents were also used to prepare the Descriptor: Directive 2013/55/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 November 2013 amending Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 on administrative cooperation through the Internal Market Information System ('the IMI Regulation'); report "Strengthening Quality Midwifery Education for Universal Health Coverage 2030: Framework for Action. World Health Organization 2019", report "Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. Report of an Expert Panel (IPEC) 2011)", Standards of Practice for Nurse Practitioners. American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP), and recommendation by Anne Morrison. Scope of Nursing Practice and Decision-Making Framework TOOLKIT. ICN Regulation Series. International Council of Nursing (ICN), 2009.

3. Upon completion of the studies in the field of nursing and midwifery:

3.1. upon completion of college studies, the professional bachelor's degree in health sciences and the qualification of general practice nurse or midwife that are in conformity with the sixth level of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, and the first cycle of the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area attested by the professional bachelor's diploma and its supplement issued by the college are awarded;

3.2. upon completion of the university studies of the first cycle, the bachelor's degree in health sciences and the qualification of general practice nurse or midwife that are in conformity with the sixth level of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, and the first cycle of the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area attested by the bachelor's diploma and its supplement issued by the university are awarded;

3.3. upon completion of the studies of the second cycle, the master's degree in health sciences that is in conformity with the seventh level of the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework and the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, and the first cycle of the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area attested by the master's

diploma and its supplement issued by the university is awarded. If the studies of the second cycle of advanced nursing practice are completed, the qualification of advanced practice nurse is awarded.

4. There are no special requirements established in the Descriptor for the persons, who want to be admitted to the studies of the first cycle.

5. Persons holding a professional bachelor's degree or a bachelor's degree in health sciences, possessing the qualification of a general practice nurse and meeting the requirements established by the university may be admitted to second-cycle study programmes in the field of nursing and midwifery leading to the qualification of an advanced practice nurse.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. V-169, 3 February 2022, published in the Register of Legal Acts on 3 February 2022, Identification Code 2022-01909.

6. Persons holding a professional bachelor's degree or a bachelor's degree, possessing the qualification of a general practice nurse and/or midwife and meeting the requirements established by the university may be admitted to second-cycle study programmes in the field of nursing and midwifery that do not lead to the award of a professional qualification.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. V-169, 3 February 2022, published in the Register of Legal Acts on 3 February 2022, Identification Code 2022-01909.

7. The purpose of the studies of nursing and midwifery is to prepare nurses and midwifes, who would be able to organise and provide personal health care services innovatively and qualitatively according to their competence, as well as to participate in the research processes and to develop professional practice:

7.1. the purpose of the college studies of general practice nursing is to prepare nurses, who would be able to organise and implement nursing and training of patients innovatively and qualitatively according to their competence, as well as to assess effectiveness of nursing, to preserve the patients' health and to take care about it, to cooperate with the specialists from other institutions, pharmacy and health care specialists, and to participate in the applied researches of the science of nursing, and to develop the nursing practice;

7.2. the purpose of the college studies of midwifery is to prepare midwifes, who would apply the system of their personal and professional values to understand the principles of science and practice of midwifery and nursing, who would know the theories and methods, who would be able to carry out obstetric care and nursing according to the areas of midwife's activities, who would be able to assist at childbirth, to consult the pregnant women, women in childbirth, and women who have recently given birth, to teach them how to take care about the new-borns, and to carry out prophylaxis in health care institutions and in the patients' homes; they would also carry out the research of the science of midwifery and develop professional practice and professional identity of the midwife;

7.3. the purpose of the university nursing studies of the first cycle is to prepare nurses, who would understand the principles of science and practice of nursing, its theories and methods, who would apply the nursing skills based on scientific evidence and who would be able to assess independently and critically the nursing needs of healthy and ill people and provide the patient-oriented care, using the system of their personal and professional values in their work places– in health care and other institutions; who would take part in nursing research and form the professional identity of the nurse;

7.4. the purpose of the university midwifery studies of the first cycle is to prepare midwifes, who would understand the principles of science and practice of midwifery, its theories and methods on the basis of the system of their personal and professional values, who would apply the midwifery knowledge based on scientific evidence and who would provide the patient-oriented obstetric care and nursing according to the areas of midwife's activities, who would be able to assist at childbirth, to consult the pregnant women, women in childbirth, and women who have recently given birth, to introduce them to the care about the new-borns; who would carry out health care prophylaxis; who would perform midwifery and interdisciplinary research and form the professional identity of the midwife;

7.5. the purpose of the studies of the second cycle leading to the master's degree is to prepare the nurses, who would have knowledge and skills of nursing leadership, supervision and

organisation, teaching, health policy, management of human and other resources, and assurance of nursing quality, who would be able to carry out the nursing and interdisciplinary research, apply their results in nursing practice based on the latest developments and evidence in nursing, and who would be able to form the nursing policy on the national and international level;

7.6. the purpose of the studies of the second cycle leading to the master's degree in health sciences and qualification of advanced practice nurse is to prepare the advanced practice nurses who would have practical skills based on scientific evidence and professional clinical competences, who would have critical thinking and follow the formed system of their personal and professional values, who would be able to apply the research-based solutions of advanced nursing practice, who would work independently in the health care institutions, who would be able to act as managers or leaders in the changing, multiprofessional environment, and who would be able to solve effectively the problems of the health care system.

8. The training of general practice nurses and/or midwifes in the course of the college studies has to amount to 180 or 210 study credits, and to 240 credits at university. At least 4600 hours of theoretical and clinical training should be applied: at least one third should be attributed to theoretical hours, and at least half of the time (2300 h) should be assigned for clinical practical training.

9. The duration of clinical practical training of general practice nurses and/or midwifes in personal health care and/or other institutions of various levels should amount to at least 2300 hours. The practical training is necessary to acquire the right to engage in the regulated profession. The practical training shall be conducted in the course of the studies, upon completion whereof a diploma is issued.

CHAPTER II
CONCEPT AND SCOPE OF THE STUDY FIELD

10. Nursing is a part of personal health care that covers training, strengthening and preservation of the patients' health, prevention of diseases and risk factors, physical, mental and social care of healthy and ill persons based on the science and the good practice.

11. Midwifery is a part of personal health care that covers training and care of women health, prevention of risk factors, consultations and aid in various age stages based on the science and the good practice.

12. Nursing and midwifery cover versatile scope of biopsychosocial theoretical and practical knowledge, thus, in order to define the content of the studies, the comprehensive information not only in nursing and/or midwifery, but also other fields, good foreign practice, and cooperation with stakeholders should be applied. The harmony of human and natural interaction, social responsibility, interprofessional teaching, interdisciplinarism, new knowledge, technologies and ideas that may affect modern and future development of science and practice of nursing and midwifery also have to be included into modelling of the programme's content.

13. Depending on the standards of education and profession, the following elements of the content have to be reflected in the nursing study programmes of the first and the second cycles:

13.1. theoretical area of the nurse's profession covering the nursing theory: philosophy and models, values, diversity of nursing problems, critical thinking, and strategies of nursing implementation;

13.2. the area of methods of the nurse's profession covering the nursing process and its constituents;

13.3. knowledge and application of nursing research methodology;

13.4. area of preparation of the professional nurse who analyses critically and reflects the practical activities, and who can work as a practitioner in any health care institution;

13.5. paradigm of the nurse's profession that covers ethical, moral and behavioural standards and principles of assurance of human rights;

13.6. nursing interventions that are directed towards the patient's enabling, preservation and improvement of health, and prevention of undesirable health states.

14. Depending on the standards of education and profession, the following elements of the content have to be reflected in the midwifery study programmes of the first cycle:

14.1. theoretical area of the midwife's profession covering the theory of midwifery and interdisciplinary subjects: philosophy and models, values, diversity of midwifery problems, critical thinking, and strategies of implementation of obstetric care;

13.2. the area of methods of the midwife's profession covering the nursing process and its constituents;

13.3. knowledge and application of research methodology of midwifery and interdisciplinary subjects;

13.4. area of preparation of the professional midwife who analyses critically and reflects the practical activities, and who can work as a practitioner in any health care institution and at patient's home;

13.5. paradigm of the midwife's profession that covers ethical, moral and behavioural standards and principles of assurance of human rights;

13.6. midwifery and nursing interventions that are directed towards the patient's enabling, preservation and improvement of health, and prevention of undesirable health states.

15. The graduates of the study field of nursing and midwifery will be able to do the following work:

15.1. upon completion of the college and university study programmes in nursing of the first and the second cycles, the graduates will be able to work in personal health care institutions of the first, second and tertiary level and in the institutions of social services (foster home of healthy and ill people of different age and in other institutions);

15.2. upon completion of the college and university study programmes in midwifery of the first cycle, the graduates will be able to work in personal health care institutions of the first, second and tertiary level and in other institutions.

16. The national and international research of the professions of nursing and midwifery is important for formulation of the learning outcomes. The training of nurses and midwifes is related to the needs of the labour market. It is important for the study programmes not only to comply with the needs of the current labour market, but also to presuppose the further development of the professions of nurse and midwife.

17. The content of the study programmes in the field of nursing and midwifery has to be directed to the regional, national and international needs and priorities of personal health care defined in the Lithuanian and European Union's strategical documents.

CHAPTER III
GENERAL AND SPECIAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

18. Upon completion of college studies in nursing, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

18.1. knowledge and its application. The person will be able:

18.1.1. to follow the legal acts that govern health care in the course of nursing implementation;

18.1.2. to link the knowledge about person's health state, physical and social environment, while planning, implementing and assessing the nursing and/or nursing actions;

18.1.3. to apply the knowledge of education, psychology and nursing sciences for planning of teaching of personal and/or community health;

18.2. skills to carry out research. The person will be able:

18.2.1. to collect the data of applied research of the science of nursing;

18.2.2. to summarise the outcomes data of applied research of the science of nursing;

18.2.3. to apply the research outcomes to solve the particular problems of nursing and introduction of innovations;

18.3. special skills. The person will be able:

18.3.1. to determine the needs of the patient's and/or community nursing, to plan and organise nursing;

18.3.2. to determine the influence of life style and environmental risk factors on nursing;

18.3.3. to perform nursing interventions and to assess the nursing results;

18.3.4. to initiate help in case of crises and accidents;

18.3.5. to include persons, families and groups into management of health problems;

18.3.6. to encourage persons, families and groups to conduct healthy life style and to take care about their health;

18.3.7. to initiate independently the immediate life saving measures and to perform them in case of crises and accidents;

18.4. social skills. The person will be able:

18.4.1. to communicate and collaborate efficiently in the team of health specialists while implementing nursing process, including participation in practical training of health care employees;

18.4.2. to communicate orally and in writing with subjects from health care and other sectors in compliance with professional ethics and public spirit;

18.4.3. to demonstrate tolerance to diversity of persons' beliefs and intercultural differences;

18.4.4. to recognise and respond appropriately to manifestations of corruption, demonstrate moral responsibility for the impact of their own activities on social, economic and cultural development, well-being and the environment.

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18.5. personal skills. The person will be able:

18.5.1. to choose the studying strategies and methods necessary to develop personally in professional activities;

18.5.2. to improve personal practice according to the science-based knowledge about the nurse's profession;

18.5.3. to demonstrate social responsibility in the course of implementation of nursing process;

18.5.4. to form the image of the nurse's profession based on ethical values;

18.5.5. to assure independently nursing quality, to assess it, to analyse the nursing quality in attempt to improve own professional practice of general practice nurse.

19. Upon completion of university studies of the first cycle in nursing, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

19.1. knowledge and its application. The person will be able:

19.1.1. to analyse critically and systemically and to apply the latest knowledge about the nursing theory and practice, human and public health, methods of the science of nursing, development of the nursing profession, principles of professional ethics, national and international health care policy, nursing administration, professional cooperation and communication, the patients' rights in nursing practice and research;

19.1.2. to apply the knowledge of natural, biomedical, social sciences and humanities for systemic assessment of person's, family's and community's health in nursing practice;

19.1.3. to assess critically and to apply efficiently the nursing theories and models in practice.

19.2. skills to carry out research. The person will be able:

19.2.1. to carry out independent nursing research, to interpret, analyse, summarise and present its outcomes;

19.2.2. to apply research outcomes in professional activities of nursing, to formulate practical recommendations for nurses and other health care specialists and health politicians;

19.2.3. to formulate and substantiate the hypotheses, research objectives and tasks, to assess the outcomes analytically, and to form the evidence-based nursing practice;

19.3. special skills. The person will be able:

19.3.1. to plan and implement the nursing process: to collect nursing information (data), to determine nursing problems (diagnoses), to formulate nursing aims, to plan nursing actions, and to

assess nursing outcomes;

19.3.2. to provide nursing services to the patients, families and communities of any age or health state;

19.3.3. to render first and urgent medical aid in case of life-threatening states and traumas according to the competence;

19.3.4. to organise and carry out training and self-care of healthy and ill persons;

19.3.5. to collaborate and lead the team work while providing nursing services, to demonstrate independence, professional and personal responsibility;

19.3.6. to convey expertly the knowledge of professional activities and practical experience, while carrying out informal education of the nursing practice and performing the functions of practice teacher;

19.3.7. to apply the latest methods of professional activities and to use the correct terminology professionally;

19.3.8. to assess physical and pathological human development processes with regard to health and disease;

19.3.9. to know about main theoretical and general pharmacological impact of medicines on human organism, the side effect of medicines, and to apply this knowledge in the professional activities of nurse;

19.3.10. to identify holistically the etiological problems and health changes of a person, group or community, to render help, and to follow the principles of individual nursing of patients in various health care institutions;

19.3.11. to carry out precisely and methodically the prescribed procedures of therapeutic nursing and diagnostics, and to assess their efficiency;

19.4. social skills. The person will be able:

19.4.1. to communicate and collaborate efficiently with patients, colleagues, scientists, to exchange the information necessary for effective nursing process, to be able to work in the interdisciplinary team, to organise the team work, and to assume responsibility;

19.4.2. to express thoughts smoothly and forcefully in writing and orally, to communicate effectively in the professional environment, community and public space in Lithuanian and at least in one foreign language, and to recognise diversity of people and their intercultural differences;

19.4.3. to demonstrate creativity in nursing practice and to be able to adjust to new situations;

19.4.4. to teach self-care and healthy life style to the patients;

19.4.5. to collaborate and lead the health care team, to organise and coordinate continuity of nursing, to take the problems of professional activities into consideration creatively, to foster independence, professional and personal responsibility, and to assess quality of the patient's health care;

19.4.6. to recognise and respond appropriately to manifestations of corruption, demonstrate moral responsibility for the impact of their own activities on social, economic and cultural development, well-being and the environment.

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19.5. personal skills. The person will be able:

19.5.1. to assess critically own and colleagues' professional nursing activities, to understand the importance of life-long learning, and to develop the learning skills all the time;

19.5.2. to search and use national and international information sources, to use the information technologies, and to know how to treat confidential information;

19.5.3. to be empathic to human feelings, needs and expectations, and to apply the principles of communication, ethical and legal approaches in the professional activities of nurse.

20. Upon completion of college studies in midwifery, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

20.1. knowledge and its application. The person will be able:

20.1.1. to analyse and apply the theories, principles and methods of the professional activities and the latest knowledge about the human health, professional development, principles of professional ethics, health care policy, professional communication and cooperation, and the rights

of patients in the midwife's practice;

20.1.2. to apply the knowledge of natural, biomedical, social sciences and humanities for systemic assessment of person's, family's and community's health in midwifery practice;

20.1.3. to apply the theories and principles of professional activities in midwifery and nursing;

20.2. skills to carry out research. The person will be able:

20.2.1. to perform independent research in obstetrics and/or midwifery, to interpret,

analyse, summarise and present the outcomes;

20.2.2. to apply research outcomes in professional activities, to formulate practical recommendations for midwifes and other health care specialists and health politicians, and to improve the evidence-based practice;

20.3. special skills. The person will be able:

20.3.1. to provide obstetric care and help to women at any age and to take care about the new-born;

20.3.2. to prepare women, pregnant women, and women in childbirth for instrumental tests and medical interventions;

20.3.3. to assist independently to normal (low risk) labour, to help the woman in childbirth, the foetus and the new-born, and to work in team in case of pathological labour;

20.3.4. to organise and carry out reproductive health care of the family, to consult on the issues of family planning and family education, to prepare the paternity programmes and to prepare women for labour;

20.3.5. to convey expertly the knowledge and practical experience of professional activities, to carry out informal education according to the midwife's competence, and to perform functions of the practice teacher;

20.3.6. to organise and carry out health literacy of healthy and ill women and families, their health training and self-care;

20.3.7. to perform remedial procedures according to the midwife's competences and functions;

20.4. social skills. The person will be able:

20.4.1. to collaborate in the team work while providing obstetric care and help;

20.4.2. to express thoughts smoothly and forcefully in writing and orally, to communicate effectively in the professional environment, community and public space in Lithuanian and at least in one foreign language, and to recognise diversity of people and their intercultural differences;

20.4.3. to create new ideas in midwifery practice and to adjust to new situations;

20.4.4. to recognise and respond appropriately to manifestations of corruption, demonstrate moral responsibility for the impact of their own activities on social, economic and cultural development, well-being and the environment.

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20.5. personal skills. The person will be able:

20.5.1. to assess critically own and colleagues' professional activities, to understand the importance of life-long learning, and to develop the learning skills all the time;

20.5.2. to make independent decisions in the midwife's practice according to the competence;

20.5.3. to use national and international information sources, to use the information technologies, and to know how to treat confidential information;

21. Upon completion of university studies of the first cycle in midwifery, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

21.1. knowledge and its application. The person will be able:

21.1.1. to analyse critically and to apply the theories, principles and methods of the professional activities and the latest knowledge about human and public health, scientific methods, development of the profession, principles of professional ethics, national and international health care policy, professional cooperation and communication, the patients' rights in midwifery practice and research;

21.1.2. to apply the knowledge of natural, biomedical, social sciences and humanities for systemic assessment of person's, family's and community's health in midwifery practice;

21.2. skills to carry out research. The person will be able:

21.2.1. to carry out independent midwifery and/or nursing research, to interpret, analyse, summarise and present its outcomes;

21.2.2. to apply research outcomes in professional activities, to formulate practical recommendations for midwifes and other health care specialists and health politicians, and to improve the evidence-based practice;

21.2.3. to carry out research in midwifery and interdisciplinary areas and to develop the evidence-based practice;

21.3. special skills. The person will be able:

21.3.1. to provide obstetric care and help to women at any age and to take care about the new-born;

21.3.2. to prepare women, pregnant women, and women in childbirth for instrumental tests and medical interventions

21.3.3. to assist independently to normal (low risk) labour, to help the woman in childbirth, the foetus and the new-born, and to work in team in case of pathological labour;

21.3.4. to organise and carry out reproductive health care of the family, to consult on the issues of family planning and family education, to prepare the paternity programmes and to prepare women for labour;

21.3.5. to convey expertly the knowledge of professional activities and practical experience to colleagues and students, while performing the functions of practice teacher;

21.3.6. to organise and carry out health training and self-care;

21.4. social skills. The person will be able:

21.4.1. to collaborate and lead the team work in the course of provision of obstetric care and help;

21.4.2. to express thoughts smoothly and forcefully in writing and orally, to communicate effectively in the professional environment, community and public space in Lithuanian and at least in one foreign language, and to recognise diversity of people and their intercultural differences;

21.4.3. to create new ideas in the practical activities of midwife and to adjust to new situations;

21.4.4. to recognise and respond appropriately to manifestations of corruption, demonstrate moral responsibility for the impact of their own activities on social, economic and cultural development, well-being and the environment.

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21.5. personal skills. The person will be able:

21.5.1. to assess critically own and colleagues' professional activities, to understand the importance of life-long learning, and to develop the learning skills all the time;

21.5.2. to make independent decisions in the midwife's practice;

21.5.3. to use national and international information sources, to use the information technologies, and to know how to treat confidential information;

21.5.4. to convey professional knowledge and practical experience to colleagues and students, to perform the functions of professional teacher of clinical training (practice teacher) and manager.

22. Upon completion of university studies of the second cycle in nursing, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

22.1. knowledge and its application. The person will be able:

22.1.1. to apply the latest knowledge of the science of nursing to solve non-standard situations of the professional activities and to implant the innovations;

22.1.2. to analyse critically and independently the situation of nursing science and practice and to form the need of new nursing research;

22.1.3. to convey independently the knowledge of the science of nursing to students and colleagues, and to supervise nursing practice;

22.1.4. to distinguish peculiarities of intercultural nursing and to take the cultural development of various social groups and nationalities into consideration;

22.1.5. to apply the provisions of national and international health policy, the legal acts governing health care, administration peculiarities of health care institutions, and the principles of team work of health care specialists and the principles of team's formation;

22.2. skills to carry out research. The person will be able:

22.2.1. to initiate and coordinate planning and performance of nursing and multidisciplinary research;

22.2.2. to prepare and perform nursing research independently or with the help of health

care team, and to assess alternative variants of problem solution;

22.2.3. to apply practically the theoretical and experimental methods of the science of nursing;

22.2.4. to assess reliability of research, to model the appropriate decisions of the science of nursing, and to apply them in practice;

22.2.5. to formulate the guidelines of application of nursing research in practice and to apply the discoveries in the science of nursing in own professional activities;

22.2.6. to substantiate scientifically the patient's nursing problems, to use the nursing theories and models in search for practical solutions on the issues of patient's health care and nursing;

22.3. special skills. The person will be able:

22.3.1. to create creative environment of the personal health care institution that would enable the members of the health care team to solve the problems of the patients, staff and management;

22.3.2. to prepare an integral action plan for nursing service of the personal health care institution and to develop strategies for solution of nursing problems and development of the science and practice of nursing;

22.3.3. to develop continuously in the professional and interdisciplinary activities and to motivate the colleagues stressing the latest priorities of the science and practice of nursing on the national and international levels;

22.3.4. to prepare and adjust standards of nursing procedures in accordance with the knowledge based on scientific evidence in clinical practice;

22.3.5. to apply the patient-oriented are and assessment criteria of the quality of nursing services in the clinical practice;

22.3.6. to organise practical training of the nursing students in health care institution, to perform the functions of practice teacher, and to organise improvement of qualification of the subordinate employees;

22.4. social skills. The person will be able:

22.4.1. to work in the health care and inter-sector teams in Lithuania and in the international space;

22.4.2. to create the models of cooperation between departments, institutions, and international cooperation while improving nursing of ill and healthy persons;

22.4.3. to convey reasoned information to health care specialists and other persons;

22.4.4. to form support teams oriented to continuous professional renewal.

22.4.5. to recognise and respond appropriately to manifestations of corruption, demonstrate moral responsibility for the impact of their own activities on social, economic and cultural development, well-being and the environment.

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22.5. personal skills. The person will be able:

22.5.1. to present publicly the outcomes of nursing research and to suggest practical recommendations on the necessary level (local, national or international);

22.5.2. to discuss relevant nursing issues in the professional and interdisciplinary environment on local, national or international level;

22.5.3. to develop professional competence and career independently;

22.5.4. to make innovative decisions, to feel moral responsibility for own professional activities;

22.5.5. to solve the work problems creatively and innovatively, to apply ethical decision-making models and ethical principles in daily activities;

22.5.6. to apply the latest technologies in clinical nursing practice.

23. Upon completion of university studies of the second cycle, after which the qualification of advanced practice nurse is awarded, the following learning outcomes have to be achieved:

23.1. knowledge and its application. The person will be able:

23.1.1. to apply the latest knowledge of the science of nursing to solve non-standard situations of the professional activities and to implant the innovations;

23.1.2. to apply ethical and data protection principles in clinical practice, and to preserve the patient's confidentiality;

23.1.3. to apply the principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics and the methods of medicines use in case of acute and chronic diseases;

23.1.4. to assess the symptoms of the most frequent diseases of the organism's systems, the clinical signs and general reactions of the organism to injury and pathological processes happening in the human organism;

23.1.5. to apply the provisions of national and international health policy, the legal acts governing health care, administration peculiarities of health care institutions, and the principles of team work of health care specialists and the principles of team's formation;

23.2. skills to carry out research. The person will be able:

23.2.1. to initiate and coordinate planning and performance of nursing and multidisciplinary research;

23.2.2. to prepare and perform nursing research independently or with the help of health care team, and to assess alternative variants of problem solution;

23.2.3. to apply practically the theoretical and experimental methods of the science of nursing;

23.2.4. to assess reliability of research, to model the appropriate decisions of the science of nursing, and to apply them in practice;

23.2.5. to assess and compare the current practice level with the scientific developments on the personal level; to collect data, to assess the impact of nursing interventions on the health of patients; to collaborate with other health care specialists, while organising care directed to the patient on the individual, organisational or systemic level;

23.3. special skills. The person will be able:

23.3.1. to distinguish norm and pathology; to diagnose acute diseases, to recognise flare-up episodes of chronic diseases and to render help; to foresee and diagnose critical health states; to select appropriate clinical interventions in case of acute and life-threatening states;

23.3.2. to foresee and diagnose critical health states and to select appropriate clinical interventions in case of acute and life-threatening states;

23.3.3. to recognise the flare-up episodes of the confirmed chronic diseases; to carry out screening and/or preventive checks-up; to choose the appropriate interventions in the course of routine procedures; to select appropriate clinical interventions in case of acute and life-threatening states;

23.3.4. to carry out screening and/or preventive checks-up; to choose the appropriate interventions in the course of routine procedures. To apply health strengthening principles and disease prevention in the course of personal, community and society health care;

23.3.5. to determine the symptoms of the most frequent diseases of the organism's systems, aetiopathogenesis of the occurring diseases, their clinical signs, diagnostics, complications, treatment fundamentals, to know and apply formulation of diagnoses, prescription issuance and fundamentals of differential diagnostics in the professional nursing activities; the principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics in case of acute and chronic conditions; to know the use methods, and general reactions of the organism to injury and pathological processes happening in the human organism;

23.3.6. to work in the team of nursing specialists in the personal health care institution; to inform the patient about diagnostic tests, to introduce the patient to the course of examination and possible complications; to fill in and manage medical documentation, to use the installed software, to find, manage, accumulate, systemise and convey the information;

23.4. social skills. The person will be able:

23.4.1. to work in the personal health care and inter-sector teams in Lithuania abroad and to inform the patient about diagnostic tests, to introduce the patient to the course of examination and possible complications;

23.4.2. to create the models of cooperation between departments, institutions, and international cooperation while improving nursing of ill and healthy persons that would help to reduce discrepancies in the health care;

23.4.3. to convey reasoned information to health care specialists and other persons;

23.4.4. to identify biosocial problems of the patient and to initiate timely help in cooperation with other sectors (educational, social, public health, etc.);

23.4.5. to recognise and respond appropriately to manifestations of corruption, demonstrate moral responsibility for the impact of their own activities on social, economic and cultural development, well-being and the environment.

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23.4.6.

23.5. personal skills. The person will be able:

23.5.1. to assess and apply the science-based novelties in the nursing practice while working with the patient or community;

23.5.2. to assess results of nursing interventions for the health of patients and community;

23.5.3. to consult the patients independently according to the competence and requirements of qualitative consultations;

23.5.4. to accept innovative solutions in the field of nursing and to assume moral responsibility for own professional activities;

23.5.5. to apply ethical principles in clinical practice in accordance with the current legal acts governing the patient's right to confidentiality and data protection.

CHAPTER IV
TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

24. The teaching, learning and assessment activities have to be organised in such a way so that the students would be able to achieve the aimed learning outcomes.

25. The idea of the life-long learning should be promoted in the course of the studies. The students have to be prepared and encouraged to assume responsibility for their learning. The study programme, its content and didactic system have to motivate the students to use other available sources and resources, while the teaching staff should be motivated to include novelties into the study process.

26. The teaching and learning methods have to be effective and versatile; the tasks for independent work have to be in compliance with learning outcomes of the study programme, to motivate the students to use student's and teacher's time and material resources (libraries, laboratories, equipment, etc.) rationally.

27. The following study methods may be applied in the study process:

27.1. information presenting methods when various knowledge is conveyed and consolidated to train understanding, independent thinking, to assess facts and evidence, and to form the attitude (lectures, seminars, discussions, methods conversation, storytelling, demonstration, illustration, explanation and consultation);

27.2. practical-oriented methods that are used to encourage practical activities, to (self)-develop operational skills and capacities (work in pairs, practical training, laboratory works, practical assignments, data collection on site, use of manikins, medical and nursing (midwifery) tools and equipment;

27.3. problem-oriented study methods that promote critical thinking, teach to solve the problems, create preconditions for the students to apply theoretical knowledge to solve the real nursing or midwifery problems (clinical case study, simulation of real situation, management of research or project);

27.4. methods of work in groups and in team that grant a possibility for the students to unite and use the available special and general skills, to learn to collaborate and communicate, to think critically, to perform the tasks related to problem solution, to reflect critically, and to present the decisions publicly;

27.5. methods inducing independent studying of studies that allow developing critical and

creative thinking and solution of problems. Active studying methods are matched with the tasks that allow the students to participate actively in discussions, debates, to share their experience, to analyse and systemise;

27.6. exploratory methods (search for information, reading of literature, analysis of scientific literature and online analysis, methods of empirical research, preparation and presentation of report, learning according to the contracts);

27.7. self-assessment and self-performance assessment methods (diary of practical training, self-reflection, public presentations of works, discussions).

28. The achieved learning outcomes are assessed according to the assessment procedure of learning outcomes approved by the higher education institution.

29. The assessment strategy may cover various assessment methods. They have to match the assessment object, skills of various degrees, and be adequate to the formed outcomes of certain study subject or the study programme, and the chosen study methods.

30. When establishing the assessment procedure, the higher education institution may allow the teaching staff to select the assessment methods among the following:

30.1. to assess the level of knowledge and understanding – tests, concept maps, computerised tasks, presentations;

30.2. to assess the level of application– demonstration, role plays, exercises of problem solution;

30.3. to assess the level of analysis – individual case study, graphical methods, projects;

30.4. to assess the level of synthesis – model construction, review of scientific articles, folder method;

30.5. to assess the level of evaluation – research work, projects, case study, presentations, reports.

31. Students must have timely and appropriate feedback about the works or the projects they have performed or prepared. The evaluation has to be supported by constructive comments.

32. The assessment of students' knowledge and skills has to be reliable and based on clearly formulated criteria that are known beforehand. The work conditions and available resources have to be taken into consideration. Students should have possibilities to participate in the decision-making on the learning outcomes' assessment methods and criteria, number and volume of assignments.

CHAPTER V
REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

33. The volume of contact work has to satisfy the requirements provided in this descriptor. The practical skills of midwifery and nursing cannot be acquired online.

34. The practical training during the college and university studies of the first cycle is integral and compulsory. The practical training may be conducted in the second cycle with regard to the character of the study programme and requirements of the respective higher education institution.

35. The practical training has to be organised in accordance with the procedure established by the respective higher education institution. The purpose of practical training of certain study programme has to be described according to the form approved by the higher education institution, stating the purpose of practical training, expected outcomes, assignments, etc. Before the practical training, students shall be introduced to the organisation procedure of practical training, its purposes, tasks, assessment system and criteria of achievements. A trilateral agreement has to be signed between a student, a higher education institution, and an institution of practical training.

36. The practical training has to provide conditions to apply the acquired theoretical knowledge by improving the necessary skills and competences.

37. The practical training has to be organised and implemented according to the principle of cooperation and social partnership. The practical training supervisors from the institutions have to get involved in the process of preparation of practical training assignments and improvement of practical training organisation. The higher education institution has to create conditions for teaching staff to improve general skills. The practical training in the studies of the first cycle shall be

organised in such a way that the student would get familiar with the nursing and midwifery services provided in personal health care institutions of all the levels in the course of studies.

38. The persons in charge of the study programmes have to regularly assess the needs of labour market and to organise the surveys of students, graduates, employers and other stakeholders. The received data should be used to correct the study programme and the taught subjects (modules).

39. The study programme ends in the graduate's assessment during public defence of the theses, defence of the theses, or when final exams are passed. The requirements for the theses and final exams shall be determined by the respective higher education institution.

40. The assessment commission of the theses has to be formed in the procedure established by respective higher education institution.

41. The competence of the teaching staff shall be assessed according to their scientific, pedagogical and practical experience: participation in applied research, experimental research, application of advanced teaching methods, recognition in professional and scientific communities, fluency in foreign languages, participation in refresher courses, internships, conferences, and seminars.

42. At least 10 percent of the subjects in the college studies of the first cycle in the fields of nursing and midwifery and at least 50 percent of the subjects in the university studies of the first cycle in the fields of nursing and midwifery have to be taught by scientists with PhD degree, who would carry out research and development activities, publish the outcomes in scientific publications, and who would take part in the national and international scientific and practical events. The practical courses of the college students (practical works, workshops, practical training of students, etc.) shall be supervised by the person who has at least bachelor's or professional bachelor's degree.

43. Information about the study programme and its amendments has to be publicly available on the website of the respective higher education institution.

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