**NMC Guidance – Nursing Associate / Registered Nurse Comparison**

Over the coming years more and more people who use health and care services will benefit from the care given by nursing associates in a range of settings. And while it’s not our job to set out what they can and can’t do, we do make sure that they can demonstrate the knowledge and skills required - [**as set out in our standards**](https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-nursing-associates/) - to deliver better, safer care before they enter the workforce. Once on our register nursing associates – like nurses and midwives - can enhance their knowledge and skills within their scope of practice throughout their career. It is important to remember that there is one exception to this rule. Nursing associates are not able to prescribe.

While nursing associates will contribute to most aspects of care, including delivery and monitoring, registered nurses will take the lead on assessment, planning and evaluation. Nurses will also lead on managing and coordinating care with full contribution from the nursing associate within the integrated care team.

To set this out clearly we’ve developed this helpful graphic which highlights the main differences between the two roles.

Please see NA guidance : <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/nursing-associates>

