



GUIDELINE FOR PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS LEADING TO MEMBERSHIP OF THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH, NURSING, AND MIDWIFERY OF NIGERIA

Overview: The Institute of Public Health, Nursing, and Midwifery of Nigeria (IPHNMN) offers professional certification and membership to candidates who have completed a series of professional examinations. These examinations assess the knowledge, skills, and competencies required in public health, nursing, and midwifery practice.

2. Eligibility Criteria:

- Academic Qualifications: Candidates must hold a diploma, degree, or higher qualifications in public health, nursing, or midwifery from a recognized institution.
- Professional Experience: A minimum of two years of professional practice in public health, nursing, or midwifery is required for eligibility.
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD): Candidates must demonstrate participation in CPD programs to enhance their knowledge and skills in their field.

3. Examination Structure: The professional examination is divided into three key stages:

- Stage 1: Foundation Level
 - Focuses on core concepts in public health, nursing, and midwifery.
 - Assessment includes written tests, multiple-choice questions (MCQs), and case studies.
- Stage 2: Intermediate Level
 - Advanced topics such as health systems management, epidemiology, and clinical nursing/midwifery.
 - Includes practical assessments, presentations, and written assignments.
- Stage 3: Advanced Level
 - Specialization and leadership roles in public health, nursing, and midwifery.
 - Candidates may choose a specialty track and undergo rigorous assessment, including a research-based dissertation, oral defense, and practical demonstrations.

4. Examination Dates:

- Examinations are held twice a year, in April and October. Registration must be completed at least 8 weeks before the examination date.

5. Examination Venues:

- Examinations are conducted in designated centers across major cities in Nigeria, including Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, and Kano.

6. Examination Format:

- Written Exams: Combination of essay questions, MCQs, and case-based scenarios.
- Practical Assessments: Candidates will be evaluated on their clinical and technical skills.
- Oral Exams: A panel interview with experts in public health, nursing, or midwifery.

7. Membership Categories:

- Associate Member: Upon successful completion of Stage 1 and Stage 2.
- Full Member: Upon successful completion of Stage 3.
- Fellowship: Awarded based on distinguished service, research, or contributions to the field. Candidates for fellowship must be nominated by existing fellows and demonstrate outstanding achievements in public health, nursing, or midwifery.

8. Fees:

- Examination fees vary by stage:
 - Stage 1: ₦50,000
 - Stage 2: ₦70,000
 - Stage 3: ₦100,000

9. Examination Results:

- Results will be released 4-6 weeks after the exam. Candidates who pass will be eligible to apply for membership in their respective categories.

10. Appeals Process:

- Candidates who feel they were unfairly assessed may appeal their results within two weeks of receiving their results. Appeals must be submitted in writing with supporting documents.

11. Code of Conduct:

- All candidates and members of the Institute must adhere to the professional code of ethics. Any violation of this code may result in disciplinary action, including revocation of membership.

12. Benefits of Membership:

- Access to exclusive training, networking opportunities, professional development programs, and publications.
- Eligibility for leadership roles and recognition as a certified expert in public health, nursing, or midwifery.

STAGE 1: FOUNDATION LEVEL

Focuses on core concepts in public health, nursing, and midwifery.

These topics form the foundation that candidates must master before progressing to more advanced stages of their professional certification in public health, nursing, and midwifery.

Public Health Care Concepts	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction to Public Health<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Definition, scope, and goals of public health.○ Historical development of public health in Nigeria and globally.2. Principles of Epidemiology<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Basic concepts in epidemiology: incidence, prevalence, morbidity, mortality.○ Disease surveillance and outbreak investigation.3. Health Promotion and Education<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Strategies for promoting health in communities.○ Health education principles and methods.4. Environmental and Occupational Health<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Impact of environment on health (sanitation, water quality, pollution).○ Occupational hazards and workplace health.5. Primary Health Care (PHC)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Concepts and principles of PHC in Nigeria.○ PHC services and their role in community health.
Nursing Core Concepts	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fundamentals of Nursing Practice<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Nursing theories, models, and the nursing process (assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention, evaluation).○ Patient care and safety.2. Medical-Surgical Nursing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Basics of surgical procedures and post-operative care.○ Management of common medical conditions (hypertension, diabetes, infections).3. Community Health Nursing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Role of nurses in community health settings.○ Immunization programs, maternal and child health services.4. Pharmacology for Nurses<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduction to pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.○ Safe administration of drugs and common side effects.5. Mental Health Nursing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Fundamentals of mental health care and common psychiatric disorders.○ Therapeutic communication and managing patients with mental health issues.
Midwifery Core Concepts	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction to Midwifery<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ History and development of midwifery practice.○ Role and responsibilities of midwives in maternal and neonatal health.2. Antenatal Care<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Principles of antenatal care, screening, and education.○ Monitoring maternal and fetal well-being during pregnancy.3. Intrapartum Care<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Normal labor and delivery processes.○ Pain management during labor and obstetric emergencies (e.g., postpartum hemorrhage).4. Postnatal Care<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Postnatal assessments for both mother and newborn.○ Early breastfeeding support and family planning services.5. Neonatal Care<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Basics of newborn care, including monitoring and assessment.○ Management of common neonatal conditions (jaundice, low birth weight).

STAGE 2: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

- Advanced topics such as health systems management, epidemiology, and clinical nursing/midwifery.

In the Intermediate Level (Stage 2) of the professional examinations for membership in the Institute of Public Health, Nursing, and Midwifery of Nigeria, candidates will be evaluated on more advanced and specialized topics. The specific areas of focus under health systems management, epidemiology, and clinical nursing/midwifery are outlined below:

Health Systems Management

- 1. Health Policy and Planning**
 - Health policy formulation and analysis.
 - National and global health systems and structures (e.g., WHO, Nigerian Ministry of Health).
 - Strategic planning and resource allocation in health systems.
- 2. Health Economics**
 - Basic principles of health economics, including cost-benefit analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, and financing models.
 - Healthcare financing systems (insurance, out-of-pocket, public funding).
 - Budgeting in healthcare organizations.
- 3. Leadership and Governance in Healthcare**
 - Leadership theories and practices in health organizations.
 - Health governance structures, accountability, and decision-making processes.
 - Change management and conflict resolution in healthcare.
- 4. Quality Improvement and Patient Safety**
 - Concepts of quality assurance and quality improvement in health services.
 - Methods for improving healthcare delivery (e.g., Total Quality Management (TQM), Lean, Six Sigma).
 - Risk management and patient safety initiatives.
- 5. Health Information Systems (HIS)**
 - Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS).
 - Data collection, analysis, and use in healthcare planning.
 - Role of technology in improving healthcare efficiency and outcomes.

Advanced Epidemiology

- 1. Analytical Epidemiology**
 - Study designs: cohort, case-control, cross-sectional studies.
 - Measures of association (odds ratio, relative risk, attributable risk).
 - Bias, confounding, and interaction in epidemiological studies.
- 2. Epidemiological Surveillance Systems**
 - Designing and implementing surveillance systems.
 - Monitoring disease trends and outbreak response.
 - Data management and reporting in public health surveillance.
- 3. Infectious Disease Epidemiology**
 - Epidemiology of major infectious diseases in Nigeria (HIV, TB, malaria, COVID-19).
 - Transmission dynamics and control measures for communicable diseases.
 - Vaccination strategies and herd immunity concepts.
- 4. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**
 - Epidemiology of NCDs (hypertension, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases).
 - Risk factors and prevention strategies for NCDs.
 - Population health approaches to reducing NCD burden.
- 5. Public Health Interventions and Program Evaluation**
 - Designing and evaluating public health interventions.
 - Cost-effectiveness and impact assessment of public health programs.
 - Health impact assessments and ethical considerations in public health.

Advanced Epidemiology

- 1. Analytical Epidemiology**
 - Study designs: cohort, case-control, cross-sectional studies.
 - Measures of association (odds ratio, relative risk, attributable risk).
 - Bias, confounding, and interaction in epidemiological studies.
- 2. Epidemiological Surveillance Systems**
 - Designing and implementing surveillance systems.
 - Monitoring disease trends and outbreak response.
 - Data management and reporting in public health surveillance.
- 3. Infectious Disease Epidemiology**
 - Epidemiology of major infectious diseases in Nigeria (HIV, TB, malaria, COVID-19).
 - Transmission dynamics and control measures for communicable diseases.
 - Vaccination strategies and herd immunity concepts.
- 4. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)**
 - Epidemiology of NCDs (hypertension, diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular diseases).
 - Risk factors and prevention strategies for NCDs.
 - Population health approaches to reducing NCD burden.
- 5. Public Health Interventions and Program Evaluation**
 - Designing and evaluating public health interventions.
 - Cost-effectiveness and impact assessment of public health programs.
 - Health impact assessments and ethical considerations in public health.

Advanced Clinical Nursing

- 1. Advanced Clinical Decision-Making**
 - Evidence-based practice and clinical reasoning.
 - Application of critical thinking in patient care and decision-making.
 - Use of clinical guidelines and protocols in treatment plans.
- 2. Critical Care Nursing**
 - Management of critically ill patients (ICU, emergency care, trauma care).
 - Mechanical ventilation, life-support systems, and advanced resuscitation.
 - Monitoring and management of patients with multiple organ dysfunction.

<p>Advanced Midwifery Practice</p>	<p>3. Advanced Pharmacology for Nurses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pharmacotherapeutics of complex conditions (e.g., cancer, cardiovascular diseases). ◦ Safe handling of high-risk medications (e.g., chemotherapy, anticoagulants). ◦ Drug interactions, side effects, and adverse drug reactions. <p>4. Maternal and Child Health Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Management of high-risk pregnancies and complicated deliveries. ◦ Neonatal resuscitation and care of preterm infants. ◦ Pediatric nursing for critically ill or chronically ill children. <p>5. Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Advanced psychiatric care, including management of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression. ◦ Psychopharmacology and counseling techniques. ◦ Crisis intervention, de-escalation strategies, and rehabilitation.
	<p>1. Advanced Maternal and Fetal Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Use of advanced technologies (e.g., ultrasound, electronic fetal monitoring). ◦ High-risk pregnancy management (e.g., preeclampsia, gestational diabetes). ◦ Fetal distress identification and intervention. <p>2. Obstetric Emergencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Management of obstetric emergencies, including shoulder dystocia, eclampsia, and placental abruption. ◦ Surgical interventions and postoperative care in obstetric settings. <p>3. Advanced Neonatal Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Care of neonates with congenital disorders, birth injuries, and respiratory distress syndrome. ◦ NICU management, including oxygen therapy, surfactant administration, and neonatal intensive care. <p>4. Perinatal Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Addressing maternal mental health issues (postpartum depression, anxiety, psychosis). ◦ Psychosocial support for mothers and families during the perinatal period. ◦ Integrating mental health screening into maternity care. <p>5. Midwifery Leadership and Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leading midwifery teams and advocating for maternal and neonatal health at the policy level. ◦ Implementing evidence-based practices to improve maternity care outcomes. ◦ Midwifery-led models of care and patient-centered approaches. <p>These advanced topics equip candidates with the knowledge and expertise required to take on leadership roles and manage complex health situations in public health, nursing, and midwifery.</p>

• **Stage 3: Advanced Level**

- Specialization and leadership roles in public health, nursing, and midwifery.

In the Advanced Level (Stage 3) of the professional examinations, candidates are expected to select specialization tracks in their field and demonstrate expertise in leadership roles within public health, nursing, or midwifery. The topics of focus for specialization and leadership roles include advanced knowledge and leadership competencies essential for professionals aiming to take on managerial or strategic responsibilities. These specialization and leadership topics equip candidates with the advanced skills and knowledge needed to excel in leadership roles, making significant contributions to public health, nursing, or midwifery. Candidates must demonstrate both technical expertise and leadership potential in their chosen track to advance to full membership or fellowship.

<p>Public Health Specialization and Leadership</p>	<p>1. Global Health Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leading and managing global health programs. ◦ Health diplomacy and negotiation with international organizations (e.g., WHO, UN, NGOs). ◦ Policy development and implementation in cross-border health issues. <p>2. Health Program Management and Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Designing, managing, and scaling public health programs (e.g., vaccination campaigns, disease control initiatives). ◦ Monitoring and evaluating health programs for effectiveness and sustainability. ◦ Leading multidisciplinary teams and managing resources for public health interventions. <p>3. Public Health Research and Policy Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Conducting high-impact research in areas like disease prevention, environmental health, and nutrition. ◦ Translating research findings into policy recommendations. ◦ Advocacy for health policies that address inequities and improve population health outcomes. <p>4. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Leading initiatives on health education and behavioral change. ◦ Community mobilization and engagement for disease prevention. ◦ Designing strategies to combat public health threats like HIV/AIDS, malaria, and emerging diseases. <p>5. Emergency Public Health Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Managing and coordinating responses to health emergencies (e.g., epidemics, pandemics, natural disasters). ◦ Disaster risk reduction and preparedness in vulnerable populations. ◦ Decision-making under pressure and crisis communication.
---	--

Nursing Specialization and Leadership

- 1. Nurse Leadership and Management**
 - Strategic leadership and management of nursing teams in hospitals, clinics, or community health settings.
 - Staff recruitment, retention, and professional development.
 - Financial management and budgeting in nursing departments.
- 2. Advanced Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)**
 - Specialization in fields like oncology nursing, cardiac care, trauma nursing, or gerontology.
 - Advanced clinical decision-making for complex and critical care cases.
 - Leading care teams in hospitals and providing expert consultation on clinical matters.
- 3. Nursing Education and Curriculum Development**
 - Leadership in nursing education, including the design of nursing curricula and programs.
 - Mentorship and training of future nurses and nurse educators.
 - Integration of evidence-based practice and innovation in nursing education.
- 4. Nursing Informatics and Health Technology Leadership**
 - Use of informatics in nursing practice, including telemedicine and electronic health record systems.
 - Leading the integration of health technologies to improve patient care.
 - Managing data security and confidentiality in nursing informatics.
- 5. Policy and Advocacy in Nursing**
 - Leading efforts in shaping national and international nursing policies.
 - Advocacy for better working conditions, improved patient care standards, and professional development opportunities for nurses.
 - Developing and leading community-based initiatives for underserved populations.

Midwifery Specialization and Leadership

- 1. Advanced Midwifery Practice Leadership**
 - Specialization in high-risk pregnancy management, maternal-fetal medicine, or neonatal care.
 - Leading clinical teams in maternity wards or specialized midwifery units.
 - Developing midwifery-led models of care, promoting natural childbirth, and patient-centered maternity care.
- 2. Midwifery Education and Research Leadership**
 - Curriculum development for midwifery training programs.
 - Leading research initiatives in maternal health, pregnancy outcomes, and neonatal care.
 - Supervising and mentoring future midwives and midwifery educators.
- 3. Maternal and Neonatal Health Leadership**
 - Designing and leading programs focused on reducing maternal and neonatal mortality and morbidity.
 - Developing health strategies that address maternal nutrition, mental health, and family planning.
 - Policy development and advocacy for better maternal healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- 4. Midwifery Policy and Advocacy**
 - Leading advocacy efforts for maternal health rights and the midwifery profession.
 - Influencing policy at national and international levels for better midwifery practice standards and access to maternal care.
 - Working with government bodies, NGOs, and community groups to implement maternal health programs.
- 5. Community Midwifery Leadership**
 - Specializing in community-based midwifery care, especially in rural and low-resource settings.
 - Leading teams that provide maternal and neonatal health services at the grassroots level.
 - Promoting culturally competent care, integrating traditional birth practices with modern midwifery techniques.

General Leadership Competencies for All Fields

- 1. Strategic Leadership and Organizational Development**
 - Setting the vision and strategy for healthcare organizations or programs.
 - Driving organizational change and improving service delivery in health systems.
 - Cultivating leadership qualities in teams and fostering a culture of excellence.
- 2. Ethical Leadership and Decision-Making**
 - Upholding ethical principles in decision-making and policy formulation.
 - Addressing ethical dilemmas in patient care, resource allocation, and public health practice.
 - Leading with integrity and advocating for the rights and dignity of patients.
- 3. Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Team Leadership**
 - Leading and working effectively with multidisciplinary teams (doctors, social workers, public health specialists).
 - Encouraging collaboration between health professionals and community stakeholders.
 - Building partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations.
- 4. Communication and Advocacy Skills**
 - Developing and delivering clear, impactful communication in leadership roles.
 - Advocating for public health, nursing, or midwifery issues to policymakers, stakeholders, and the public.
 - Crisis communication and media engagement in times of health emergencies