



Health Practice (Amendment No. 2) Bill, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the proposed Bill be made public?

- a. The proposed Bill will be published on 21 August. You will be able to view and download it from this site.

2. What happens after I submit my feedback?

- a. Your survey response or emailed feedback will be read by Ministry staff, and taken into consideration as we shape this legislation.

3. Why is another Health Practice (Amendment) Bill needed?

- a. The amendment passed earlier this year strengthened professional standards across regulated health professions.
- b. This Bill focuses on governance.
- c. It gives Professional Councils greater flexibility to carry out their statutory responsibilities more efficiently by establishing committees, while maintaining full accountability.
- d. It also supports the transition of the Ruth Eleanor School of Nursing to local oversight under the Cayman Islands Nursing and Midwifery Council.

4. What problem is this legislation trying to solve?

- a. Professional Councils currently carry increasing regulatory responsibilities but have limited flexibility to delegate operational work.
- b. Without committee structures, Councils are tasked with carrying out functions without the needed expertise (specialised knowledge) within the councils.
- c. The Bill enables Councils to establish committees for specified functions, improving efficiency while maintaining oversight and accountability.
- d. It also establishes the governance framework needed for local oversight of nursing education.

5. What are the key amendments proposed in the Bill? The Bill:

- a. Enables Professional Councils to establish committees;
- b. Allows specified statutory functions to be delegated to those committees;
- c. Strengthens governance arrangements while maintaining Council accountability;
- d. Improves the efficiency of licensing, registration and regulatory functions;
- e. Allows the Nursing and Midwifery Council to strengthen governance, improve the effectiveness of educational institutions, and ensure that training programmes meet the required standards for preparing competent nurses and midwives;



- f. Enables the Cayman Islands Nursing and Midwifery Council to establish an Education Committee; and
- g. Supports the transition of the Ruth Eleanor School of Nursing to local oversight.

6. How will these amendments improve governance?

- a. Good governance is about ensuring decisions are made efficiently, transparently and with appropriate oversight.
- b. The amendments allow committees to focus on specialised operational responsibilities while Professional Councils retain responsibility for regulatory decisions.
- c. This provides greater flexibility without reducing accountability.
- d. It also allows Councils to respond more effectively to the growing demands of professional regulation.

7. Will this create more Government bureaucracy? No.

- a. The purpose of the Bill is to improve efficiency, not create additional bureaucracy.
- b. Committees will operate under existing Professional Councils rather than creating new regulatory bodies.
- c. The amendments provide a practical governance structure that allows work to be carried out more effectively while maintaining clear accountability.

8. Why is the Ruth Eleanor School of Nursing moving to local oversight?

- a. The transition supports the continued development of local regulatory capacity.
- b. Oversight by the Cayman Islands Nursing and Midwifery Council ensures nursing education is governed locally while maintaining recognised professional standards. (*The Nursing Council of Jamaica has supported the Cayman Islands for more than 10 years. However, following amendments to the legislation and changes in operational requirements, the Cayman Islands NMC will be in a position to assume responsibility for overseeing our nursing school and educational programmes.*)
- c. It is an important step in strengthening Cayman Islands institutions and supporting the development of the local nursing profession.

9. How will these amendments strengthen the regulation of health professionals?

- a. The Bill does not change registration requirements or professional standards.
- b. Instead, it strengthens the governance arrangements that support regulation.
- c. Professional Councils will have better operational tools to carry out licensing, registration, investigations and other statutory responsibilities efficiently while continuing to protect patients and uphold professional standards.

10. What safeguards remain in place when Councils delegate functions?

- a. Professional Councils remain legally responsible for their statutory responsibilities.



**Ministry of Health,
Environment &
Sustainability**

Cayman Islands Government

- b.** Committees can only exercise functions delegated under the legislation and operate within the authority provided by the Council.
- c.** The amendments improve operational delivery but do not remove Council oversight or accountability.

11. How will the public benefit from these reforms?

- a.** The public benefits from a stronger and more efficient regulatory system.
- b.** The amendments support effective oversight of health professionals, strengthen governance, improve regulatory efficiency and maintain high standards of patient safety.
- c.** They also support stronger local capacity for regulating nursing education and professional practice.
- d.** For nursing, the Education Committee ensures local nursing education programmes meet high standards, strengthening workforce competency and promoting excellence in patient care through best practices and regulatory compliance.

12. How can the public participate in the consultation?

- a.** Government is committed to consulting widely before the legislation proceeds.
- b.** The Bill will be subject to a 28-day public consultation beginning on 21 August 2026.
- c.** Members of the public, healthcare professionals, educators and stakeholders will be invited to review the proposals and provide feedback through the Government's consultation process.
- d.** Town Hall meetings will also provide opportunities to ask questions and share views.