1. **What is the ICNP?**
The International Classification for Nursing Practice (ICNP®) provides a formal terminology for nursing practice and a framework into which existing vocabularies and classifications can be cross-mapped to enable comparison of nursing data.

2. **What elements are included in the ICNP?**
   - **Nursing Diagnoses and Nursing-Sensitive Patient Outcomes:** Include pre-coordinated concepts representing the client’s condition. Examples of diagnoses include: “acute pain”, “lack of transportation” or “parental stress”. Patient outcome examples include: “no pain”, “ability to prepare meals”, “urinary continence” and “improved nutritional status”. Nursing diagnoses and patient outcomes can also be used to identify patient goals.
   - **Nursing Interventions:** Include pre-coordinated concepts representing therapeutic activities of nurses. Examples include: “Assess attitude toward treatment regime”, “collaborate in initiating patient controlled analgesia”, “Teach about managing pain”, “teach family about delirium”.

3. **Why is an ICNP important?**
The objectives were set out in an initial International Council of Nurses proposal (ICN, 1991) to direct the ICNP Programme and indicate its importance:
   - Establish a terminology for describing nursing practice in order to improve communication among nurses, and between nurses and others.
   - Describe the nursing care of people (individuals, families and communities) in a variety of settings, both institutional and non-institutional.
   - Enable comparison of nursing data across clinical populations, settings, geographic areas and time.
   - Demonstrate or project trends in the provision of nursing treatments and care and the allocation of resources to patients, according to their needs based on nursing diagnoses.
   - Stimulate nursing research through links to data available in nursing information systems and health information systems.
   - Provide data about nursing practice in order to influence health policy making.

4. **Does the ICNP restrict multidisciplinary practice?**
No. Like the ICD, the development of an ICNP is a long-term project that will provide a structured terminology and a classification that can be used to describe and organise nursing data. In turn this data can be integrated into multidisciplinary health information systems.

5. **If I have been using another nursing classification system, do I have to change?**
No. The ICNP provides a unifying framework into which existing nursing vocabularies can be cross-mapped to enable comparison of nursing data collected using other recognised nursing classifications. To promote interoperability, ICN has a number of partnerships with other terminology developers.
6. **Who are the terminology developers that ICN collaborates with to maintain and advance ICNP?**

ICN has a number of formal agreements to best represent the nursing domain and promote semantic interoperability. ICNP is recognised as a related classification within the *World Health Organisation (WHO) Family of International Classifications* to promote harmonisation with the other WHO classifications. The *International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO)* and ICN have engaged in a formal Harmonisation Agreement to ensure that nursing requirements are adequately captured within SNOMED CT. In addition to harmonising ICNP and SNOMED CT, ICN serves as the international representation for nursing practice to the IHTSDO. ICN also has Liaison A status with the *International Organization for Standardization* (ISO) Technical Committee on Health Informatics (TC215) and is represented at the *International Medical Informatics Association* through participation in the Nursing Special Interest Group. More recently, ICN has collaborated with *SabaCare* to develop linkages between Clinical Care Classification (CCC) concepts and ICNP concepts.

ICN is dedicated to providing a terminology and related tools to support nursing information needs in practice. This commitment requires collaboration and coordination with global standards organisations, stakeholders, and both clinical and informatics experts.

7. **How can I participate?**

The ICNP Programme facilitates participation of individuals and groups in the ongoing development and maintenance of the ICNP. Individual researchers and organisations, such as ICN-accredited ICNP R&D Centres, are encouraged to collaborate closely with ICN through their National Nurses Associations.

8. **How does ICNP fit with other ICN initiatives?**

ICNP is one component of the ICN eHealth Programme which falls within ICN’s Professional Practice pillar. In addition to supporting eHealth practice, and positioning ICN centrally as a recognised authority on eHealth, the eHealth Programme seeks to support the work of ICN itself, transforming nursing practice through the visionary application of information and communications technology.

9. **How often is ICNP released?**

ICNP is released and disseminated at 2-yearly intervals along with translations and other derived products in order to maintain currency and keep pace with advances in nursing practice. With each new release, ICNP translations are updated.

10. **Do I need permission to use ICNP?**

ICNP is owned and copyrighted by the International Council of Nurses (ICN). ICN is interested in facilitating access to ICNP and promoting its use. Any use of ICNP, be it commercial or not, requires an agreement authorising such use.

For Further Information

[www.icn.ch/pillarsprograms/international-classification-for-nursing-practice-icnpr/](http://www.icn.ch/pillarsprograms/international-classification-for-nursing-practice-icnpr/)