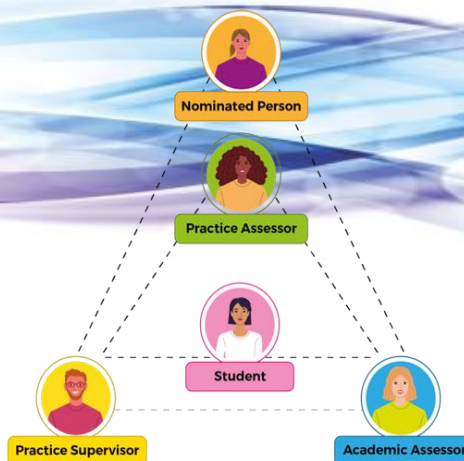


Future Nurse Future Midwife Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment

Frequently Asked Questions
(Updated May 2020)



For more information visit:



<https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-framework-for-nursing-and-midwifery-education/>

[Future Nurse Future Midwife | NIPEC \(hscni.net\)](https://www.facebook.com/nipec/)



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nipec/>

Twitter: @nipec_online

Future Nurse Future Midwife [Resources](#) are available on the NIPEC web page.

If you would like to be included in FNFM communications and updates please send an email to Lheanna.kent@nipec.hscni.net

Q. Where can I access additional information on SSSA and the various new roles?

A. Further information about the SSSA including the roles and responsibilities of the practice supervisor, practice assessor, academic assessor and the nominated person can be accessed in 'FNFM – Key Facts' and 'A Guide for those Responsible for Student Supervision and Assessment in Practice' on the [FNFM resource page](#).

Q. If I have concerns about a student what should I do?

A. If you have any concerns regarding a student, or if you require support you should talk with your nominated person and seek guidance from the Practice Education Team (or equivalent) and/or the academic assessor/link lecturer/practice tutor. Further details are available in an escalating concerns/issues protocol in 'A Guide for those Responsible for Student Supervision and Assessment in Practice' on the [FNFM resource page](#).

Q. How can I access additional training for the skills listed in the [standards of proficiencies nurses and standards of proficiency midwives](#)?

A. Additional CPD requirements should be identified through the usual processes such as supervision, appraisal or revalidation discussions with your manager who will signpost you to the most appropriate training relevant to your practice.

Introduction

In May 2018 the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) published education standards to shape the future of nursing and midwifery for future generations. The standards apply to all NMC approved programmes and aim to:

- raise the ambition in terms of what is expected of a nurse and midwife at the point of registration
- maximise the quality and safety of nursing and midwifery education and training.

In March 2020 the NMC published [Emergency standards for nursing and midwifery education](#) in response to the COVID19 situation. These new standards provided services with the flexibility to allow student learning in practice to continue during the emergency period and were implemented in Northern Ireland (NI) in April 2020.

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide some answers to frequently asked questions on; the NMC [Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment](#) 2018 (SSSA); the role of the practice supervisor, practice assessor, academic assessor and the support provided by the nominated person and Practice Education Teams (HSCT).

Q. When will the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (SSSA) come into place?

A. It was previously agreed that the SSSA would commence in September 2020 for nursing (aligned to the implementation of the Future Nurse standards) and in September 2021 for midwifery (aligned to the implementation of the Future Midwife standards). However, following publication of the [Emergency standards for nursing and midwifery education](#), **SSSA has now been implemented across all pre and post registration NMC approved programmes.** The SSSA now replaces the Standards to Support Learning and Assessment in Practice (SLAiP 2008). Click [here](#) for information on the arrangements for the implementation of SSSA during the COVID19 response.

Q. Who will be the practice supervisor/s?

A. All NMC registered nurses and midwives are capable of supervising students and serving as role models for safe and effective practice. It is anticipated that all NMC registrants will undertake the role of practice supervisor as outlined in The Code (NMC 2018). Students may also be supervised by other registered health and social care professionals.

Q. Who will be the practice assessor/s?

A. Practice assessors are NMC registrants and in exceptional circumstances other registered health care professionals. Previous mentors, sign-off mentors and practice teachers will automatically transition into the role of practice assessor following completion of a preparation programme. In Northern Ireland it has been agreed that all registrants who have not formally supported students in the past will be practice supervisor and practice assessor ready following completion of the relevant preparation programme.

Q. Can I be a practice supervisor and a practice assessor at the same time?

A. Yes, as long as these roles are in relation to separate students however, in exceptional circumstances the same person may fulfil the role of the practice supervisor and practice assessor e.g. prescribing programmes.

Q. How will nursing practice supervisors and assessors be prepared for the role?

A. Nursing preparation is available via face to face, e-Learning and/ or blended learning programmes. To discuss which preparation programme is right for you, please speak with your nominated person. Key information on the nursing Preparation Programmes is available in the 'FNFM SSSA Preparation Programmes FAQ And Process' on the [FNFM resource page](#).

Q. How will midwifery practice supervisors and practice assessors be prepared for the role?

A. Practice Supervisor Practice Assessor Midwifery programmes and resources to support the implementation of Future Midwife are currently under development. Preparation programmes will be available via face to face, e-Learning and/or blended learning.

Following completion of the FNFM Practice Supervisor Practice Assessor Preparation Programme, you will be practice assessor ready however you may wish to shadow an experienced practice assessor before taking on the role and you should discuss this with your nominated person.

Q. How many students will I be supervising or assessing at the same time?

A. The number of students you will be supporting will be negotiated with the nominated person.

Q. Who will be the academic assessor/s?

A. Current link lecturers/practice tutors and in exceptional circumstances other registered health care professionals from the student's university will transition to the role of academic assessor.

Q. How will the academic assessor be prepared for this role?

A. Link lecturers/practice tutors or other professionals will transition to the role of academic assessor following completion of a preparation programme or equivalent update.

Q. How do the roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor work together?

A. The academic assessor works in partnership with the practice assessor to evaluate and recommend the student for progression for each part of the programme, taking into account feedback from practice supervisor/s and evidence detailed in the students' NIPAD/MORA*

Q. What is the role of the HSC Trust Practice Education Team?

A. The Practice Education Team is responsible for providing professional support, advice and guidance to the nominated person, practice supervisors and practice assessor. In partnership with the universities the Practice Education Team will support students to ensure they meet the NMC Education Standards (2018).

Q. Who will provide professional support in the Independent Sector?

A. The link lecturer/practice tutor will remain responsible for providing professional support in the Independent Sector.

Q. Will there be a register or database of practice assessors?

A. Trusts will maintain their own practice assessor database and universities will maintain a practice assessor database for the Independent Sector.

Q. Who will be the nominated person?

A. The nominated person will be the ward sister/charge nurse/team leader/home manager or a designated person within the practice area.

Q. Will I receive protected time to complete documentation?

A. Time to support student learning, review and contribute to the student's NIPAD/MORA* should be negotiated with your manager/nominated person.