



Department of  
**Health**  
An Roinn Sláinte  
Mánnystrie O Poustie  
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## Guidance Notes for completing the Practice Learning Environment Educational Audit



The Practice Learning Environment Audit (PLEEA) tool and guidance notes have been developed in collaboration with the Approved Educational Institutes (AEI); QUB, OU, UU and practice partners. The PLEEA applies to practice learning areas supporting students on pre- and post-registration programmes; this includes practice learning areas within Trusts (community and non-community) and the independent sector.

## Section 2: Description and Contact Details

Provide contact details of all relevant people to the Practice Learning Environment (PLE). This includes the lecturers/staff tutors who are allocated to the PLE and the Practice Education Facilitator (PEF). In primary care areas and independent sector areas there may not be an allocated PEF and therefore contact details for the PEF are only included where applicable.

**d. and e.** The number of students that can be supported on pre-or post-registration programmes will depend on the number of available Practice Assessors (PA) and Practice Supervisors (PS) in the PLE. You are checking the resource available in the area at this time.

## Section 3: Supervision and Assessment Capacity – Please note all Practice Assessors are also Practice Supervisors

You are asked to identify relevant PSs and PAs for students on Pre- and Post-Registration programmes who are registrants in the fields of Adult, Mental Health, Learning Disability, Childrens and Midwifery. It may be useful to refer to guidance in the Northern Ireland Model and Guide on criteria for PSs and PAs and discuss with the nominated person: [Supporting the NMC Standards for Education and Training in Northern Ireland | NIPEC](#)

For specialist practice programmes- include community and non-community pathways as listed below:

Community Pathways	Non-community pathways
District Nursing	Diabetes
Community Mental Health nursing	Stroke
Community Learning Disabilities nursing	Emergency Care
Community Children's nursing	Palliative Care
General Practice nursing	Adult
	Mental Health
	Anaesthetics
	Cancer - Oncology
	Cardiology
	Nursing Care of the Older Person
	Respiratory
	Tissue Viability
	Dermatology

f. You are asked to identify PAs available in the PLE to support students undertaking Independent/Supplementary Prescribing programme (V300) (either as standalone or integrated prescribing programme). This may be a registered nurse or midwife with V300 qualification or other registered healthcare professional for example GP, pharmacist. Where a non-NMC registered Health Care Professional may be required to support a student as a PA, local arrangements may be applied.

**Note:**

In exceptional circumstances, the same person may fulfil the role of the Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor for students on post-registration programmes. The rationale being that there may only be one individual in the PLE who can fulfil both roles.

In such instances, the Practice Education Facilitator, nominated person and the AEI will need to evidence why it is necessary for the Practice Supervisor and Assessor role to be carried out by the same person and recorded in the student's PAD. This request will be considered, discussed and agreed with the AEI in advance of the student commencing the programme.

These situations will be monitored collaboratively through the PLEEA by the nominated person and the AEI.

**Section 5: NMC programme standards**

NMC Standards for Post-registration programmes: This includes non-community SPQ pathways as it has been agreed regionally that these would also be aligned to the NMC Standards for post-registration (NMC, 2023).

**Section 6: Declaration of Approval**

The outcome of the audit is recorded and signed using the electronic signature of each person involved (nominated person, link lecturer/staff tutor and PEF).

**Section 7: Amendments to audited PLE**

Any amendments to the audit must be agreed by the nominated person, link lecturer/staff tutor and PEF. This is signed using the electronic signature for each person involved in the audit.

**Appendix One: Undertaking an Audit – Flow Chart**

A copy of the audit is sent to the nominated person, link lecturer/staff tutor, PEF and Practice Learning office for each AEI.

*For further guidance and information please refer to the following documents:*

Department of Health (DoH) and Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC) (DoH and NIPEC, 2023) *Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment: The Northern Ireland Model* Available from: [Supporting the NMC Standards for Education and Training in Northern Ireland | NIPEC](#)

Department of Health (DoH) and Northern Ireland Practice and Education Council for Nursing and Midwifery (NIPEC) (DoH and NIPEC, 2023) *Northern Ireland Guide for those responsible for Student Supervision and Assessment in Practice*. Available from: [Supporting the NMC Standards for Education and Training in Northern Ireland | NIPEC](#)

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC, 2023) *Standards for post-registration*. London: NMC. Available from: [Standards for post registration - The Nursing and Midwifery Council](#)