

Key Information for Registered Health and Social Care Professionals Supporting Nursing and Midwifery Students in Practice

Introduction

Registered Health and Social Care Professionals (HCPs) have always supported students from all disciplines to learn and develop skills in practice. Practice learning experiences enable students to gain an insight and appreciation into the diverse roles of the inter-professional teams in delivering safe and effective care.

The [Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education](#) (2023) acknowledge that students work with and learn from a range of people who may not be registered nurses or midwives but who positively contribute to their learning experience.



The NMC [Standards for student supervision and assessment](#) (2023) recognise the contribution of Health Care Professionals (HCPs) in nursing and midwifery education and outlines the roles of all health and social care professionals involved in supporting and supervising nursing and midwifery students in practice. Figure 1. outlines the roles aligned to the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (SSSA).

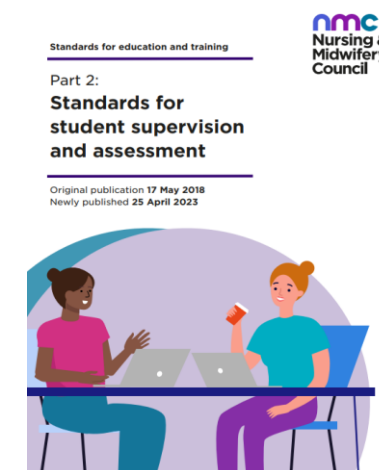
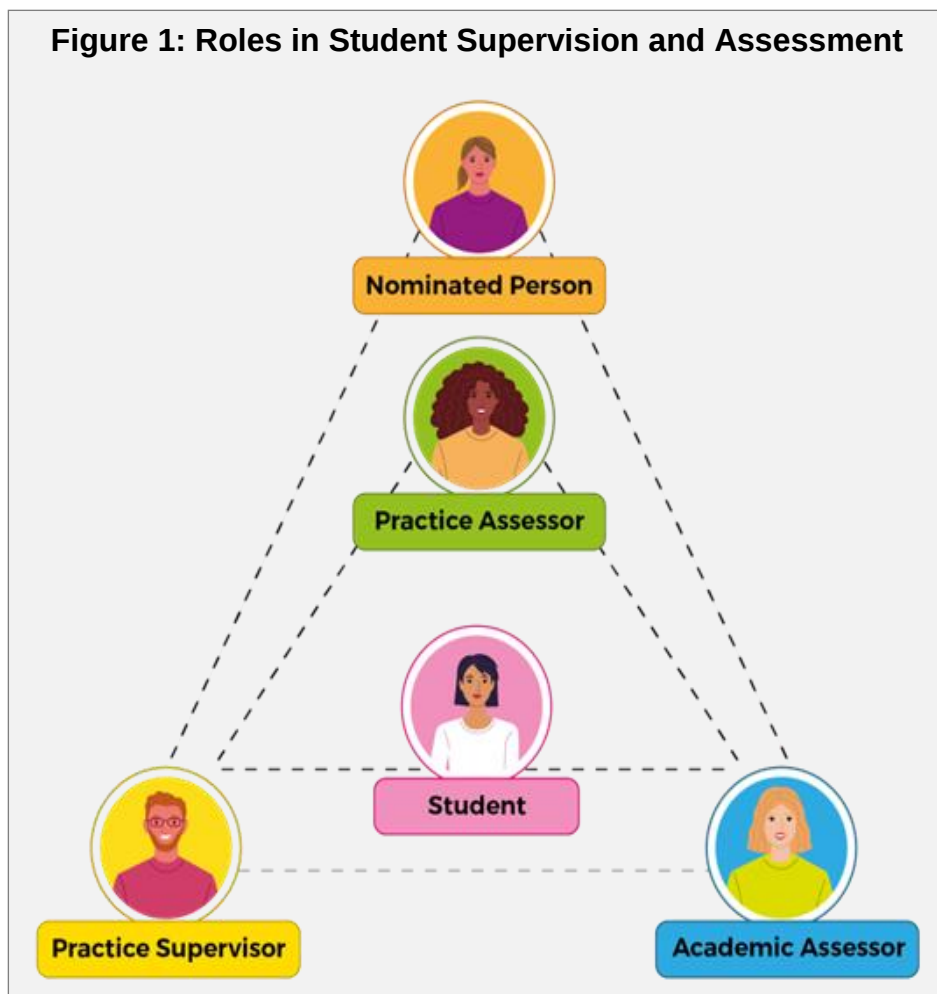


Figure 1: Roles in Student Supervision and Assessment



All of the above individuals will work together to ensure safe and effective practice learning experiences for the student which upholds public protection and safety.



Nominated Person

The Nominated Person for each practice learning environment will normally be the ward sister/charge nurse/team leader/manager.



Practice Supervisor

All NMC registered nurses and midwives are capable of supervising students and serving as role models for safe and effective practice. **Health Care Professionals** who receive appropriate preparation may also fulfil this role.



Practice Assessor

All NMC registered nurses and midwives are capable of being a Practice Assessor. They will have completed the preparation programme and evidenced that they meet the NMC Education Standards (2023) outcomes for the role.

** In exceptional circumstances, non-nursing registrants may fulfil the role of the Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor. For example; in prescribing programmes the Practice Assessor must be a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable qualifications for the programme.*

'Students have opportunities to learn from a range of relevant people in practice learning environments, including users of services, registered and non-registered individuals, and other students as appropriate'.



Academic Assessor

The Academic Assessor will be an affiliated member of staff from the student's university and a registered nurse or midwife.

** Can be another healthcare professional in certain circumstances e.g. Nursing and Midwifery Prescribing*

Link Lecturer /Practice Tutor

Northern Ireland's three universities operate a Link Lecturer/ Practice Tutor system with an identified member of staff allocated to each practice learning environment who is the regular point of contact for the student.

Practice Education Team

Each HSC Trust has a Practice Education Team to provide professional support, advice and guidance to the Nominated Person, Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors within the HSC Trusts. The universities will provide support to the independent and voluntary sectors through the allocation of a Link Lecturer/ Practice Tutor.

How You Might Facilitate Student Learning

Students will record all practice learning experiences in the Northern Ireland Practice Assessment Document (NIPAD) or the Midwifery On going Record of Achievement (MORA). Supporting information on the NIPAD/MORA can be found in the students Handbook.

Prior to working with a Practice Supervisor, the student will have identified and noted the learning objectives, skills and proficiencies which they need to obtain during their practice placement.

Examples may include:

- A **dietician** may engage the student in educating a person on the importance of adhering to a specific diet to maintain normal blood sugars
- A **doctor** may supervise a student undertaking the non-medical prescribing programme to achieve a range of competencies and proficiencies
- An **obstetric physiotherapist** may teach the midwifery student about pelvic floor exercises and the management of incontinence following child birth
- An **occupational therapist** may role model and carry out an Activities of Daily Living (ADL) assessment and discuss how this assessment informs care delivery
- A **pharmacist** may teach a student about medicine management and medicines optimisation for individual patients
- A **physiotherapist** may teach a student about a specific respiratory condition and demonstrate how to undertake chest auscultation
- A **radiographer** may teach a student about ultrasound scans in pregnancy
- A **speech and language therapist** may teach a student about communication skills and how best to support a person with communication difficulties

Following each learning experience, the HCP can provide the student with constructive feedback on their achievement, proficiency and/ or overall conduct and note the learning achieved in their NIPAD/MORA; feedback may also be given to the student's Nominated Person, Practice Assessor, Link Lecturer/Practice Tutor e.g. if professional concerns are raised. This will be documented within the NIPAD/MORA and will be communicated to the student's Practice Assessor.

Resources available which may support you for the role:

A range of resources to support the implementation of the NMC Education Standards are available on the NIPEC website at: [Supporting the NMC Standards for Education and Training in Northern Ireland | NIPEC](#)

This includes:

1. Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment: The Northern Ireland Model (2023).
2. Northern Ireland Guide for those responsible for Student Supervision and Assessment in Practice (2023)
3. Guidance Notes for completing the Practice Learning Environment Educational Audit.

In addition:

- Practice Education Teams within each HSC Trust and the Link Lecturers/ Practice Tutor are available to provide support, advice and guidance to the Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors.
- Practice Supervisor preparation programmes to support non-NMC registered Health Care Professionals working in the HSC Trusts will be provided by the Practice Education Teams within each HSC Trust and/or the Link Lecturers/ Practice Tutor in the universities.
- Practice Supervisor preparation programmes to support non-NMC registered Health Care Professionals working in the Independent and Voluntary Sectors will be provided by the Link Lecturers/ Practice Tutor in the universities.
- Any issues or concerns raised about the student in the practice learning environment should be managed in a timely manner by the Nominated Person and the Link Lecturer/Practice Tutor who will be the first point of contact (Appendix One).

Appendix One: Escalating Concerns/Issues regarding a Student in Practice Learning Environments

