

## Northern Ireland Future Nurse Future Midwife Communication Update June 2019

### Introduction



In May 2018 the NMC published [education standards](#) which will shape nursing and midwifery for future generations. The Chief Nursing Officer, Charlotte McArdle, has asked NIPEC to lead on a programme of work to support the DoH in introducing these standards in Northern Ireland by September 2020 for nursing and 2021 for midwifery education.

**Welcome to the 4th edition of the Future Nurse Future Midwife (FNFM) Communication Update.** Previous FNFM communication updates can be viewed [here](#). The focus of June's FNFM Communication will be Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) in relation to Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (SSSA).

### Future Midwife

Following NMC's Future Midwife Proficiencies Consultation, which closed on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019, NIPEC hosted a Future Midwife Implementation Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019, with 35 midwifery colleagues and stakeholders attending. The purpose of the meeting was to engage with midwifery colleagues to explore the outworkings of the FNFM project, specific to midwifery, and agree next steps in anticipation of the publication of the Future Midwife proficiencies in November 2019.

### FNFM Work Stream Updates

**Curriculum Development (CD):** This work stream aims to ensure that the 2020 Nursing and Midwifery curriculum aligns to NI Strategic Policies and the Transformation Agenda. A number of workshops, using already established professional groupings, have been used to allow nursing colleagues from each of the fields of practice to hear about and review the 2020 curricula. It is anticipated this will also happen in relation to the Midwifery curriculum.

**Northern Ireland Practice Assessment Document (NIPAD):** This work stream aims to develop a regional NIPAD, applicable across all the fields of nursing practice, and potentially midwifery. The three Universities are working in partnership with practice colleagues to develop NIPADs specific to each field of practice. It is expected these will be ready by Autumn 2019. Decisions relating to the Midwifery NIPAD will be considered as work progresses.

**Practice Learning Environments (PLE):** This work stream aims to explore how current practice placements could be enhanced and broadened in context of the standards. Significant work has been progressed by the FNFM Professional Officers, who have undertaken a scoping of the Practice Learning Environments aligned to newly agreed classifications. This work stream is also working towards a new format for the Education Audit and Student Evaluation.

**Standards for Student Supervision & Assessment (SSSA):** This work stream aims to agree a regional model for SSSA from September 2020. A draft model has been agreed and prepared for final agreement by the FNFM Working Group and Programme Board. A detailed guide for those responsible for student supervision and assessment in practice is also developed, as well as a suite of programmes to support preparation for the roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor.

## **Standards for Student Supervision & Assessment FAQ's:**

This section aims to provide information on the new SSSA roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor, academic assessor and the support provided by the nominated person and practice education team (HSCT) to undertake these roles.

### **Q When will the SSSA come into place?**

A. They will be introduced in NI from September 2020 and replace the current Standards for Learning and Assessment in Practice (SLAiP). They will apply to all NMC approved programmes, with the exception of pre-registration Midwifery programmes. It is expected these will commence from September 2021.

### **Q Who will be practice supervisors?**

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

### **Q. How will practice supervisors be prepared for this role?**

A. A preparation programme will be available for all staff delivered via e-learning and/or face to face. There will be an opportunity for those who are already mentors and sign-off mentors to have recognition for this and move directly into the role of practice supervisor and practice assessor following a curriculum update and information on the new Northern Ireland Practice Assessment Document (NIPAD).

### **Q. Who will be the practice assessors?**

A. Practice supervisors will also undertake the role of practice assessor.

### **Q. How will the practice assessor be prepared for this role?**

A. A preparation programme will be delivered via e-learning and/or face to face.

### **Q. Can a practice supervisor be 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. non-medical prescribing programmes.

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

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

### **Q. Who will be the academic assessors?**

A. Current link lecturer/practice tutors 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. All link lecturers/practice tutors will transition to their role of academic assessor following completion of a preparation programme, or equivalent.

### **Q. How does the roles of the practice supervisors, practice assessor and academic assessor work together?**

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.

### **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 for the nominated person, practice supervisors and practice assessors, and in partnership with universities will support students to ensure that the NMC Education Standards (2018) are met.

### **Q. Who will provide professional support in the independent sector?**

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 there be protected time to complete documentation?**

A. Time to support student learning, review and contributing to the NIPAD should be negotiated with your manager/nominated person.

## FAQ's continued

### Q. How can I access additional training for the skills listed in Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses?

A. Additional CPD requirements should be identified through usual processes such as supervision, appraisal or revalidation with your manager who will signpost you to the most appropriate training relevant to your scope of practice. There is not an expectation that all registrants require all the proficiencies detailed within the Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses.

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

A. If there are any concerns regarding a student, or if the practice supervisor or practice assessor needs support, they should inform the nominated person and seek guidance from the practice education team (or equivalent) and/or the academic assessor/link lecturer/practice tutor. Further detail will be available in an escalating concerns/issues protocol within a more detailed guide.

## FNFM Communication

If you would like to be included in future FNFM communications please send an email to [Lheanna.Kent@nipec.hscni.net](mailto:Lheanna.Kent@nipec.hscni.net)

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Please also visit us  <https://www.facebook.com/nipec/> or

 @nipec\_online

FNFM Website: <https://nipec.hscni.net/service/fnfm/>



## Keeping You Updated

The FNFM Professional Officers will be available to keep you updated via the HSC Trusts' communication hubs and intranet.

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