

NIPAD Frequently Asked Questions

In March 2018 the CNO tasked the NI FNFM Implementation Project to develop a regional practice assessment document, applicable to all nursing students across the four fields of practice. This section provides additional information and FAQs relating to the NIPAD.

Q. What is the NIPAD?

A. NIPAD is the regional practice assessment document for pre-registration nursing students in NI. It was developed to enhance consistency in supporting students in practice, alongside ensuring another layer of consistency in how and what students learn in practice.

The NIPAD, often referred to as a portfolio, is structured in two main sections:

1. The Ongoing Record of Achievement, which is composed of two sub parts
 - a. Records of Discussions
 - b. Evidence of Learning and Achievement
2. Assessment Documents for Formative and Summative Assessments

Q. How was the NIPAD developed?

A. The NIPAD has been written in partnership with the universities and their practice partners along with a number of other key stakeholders including student nurses, representatives from the DoH, NIPEC and service users. Work has been undertaken to ensure the NIPAD is applicable to the four fields of practice. The NIPAD work stream also forged links with England, Scotland and Wales to share work and allow for some elements of each countries PAD's to be adapted and included, where identified as suitable.

Q. What is the purpose of the NIPAD?

A. The NIPAD is designed to support and guide students and those supporting them towards successfully achieving the criteria set out in the [Future Nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses and Standards for education and training \(NMC 2018\)](#). It is therefore a record of a student's learning in practice, a tool to guide that learning and also a record of their achievements through the evidence developed and authenticated in practice.

Q. When will the NIPAD be introduced?

A. The NIPAD will be used from September 2020.

Q. How will student learning be evidenced in the NIPAD?

A. Developing evidence for the NIPAD is largely a self-determined process undertaken by the student. In order to achieve the required evidence the learning environment must incorporate opportunities for analysis of learning and facilitate an approach that encourages constructive dialogue between the student and the individuals who support them in practice. The NIPAD is the vehicle for this as it provides opportunities for these learning activities to take place, primarily through reflective processes and discussion.

Q. How will the progression of student learning be evidenced in the NIPAD?

A. Evidence of learning will be recorded in the NIPAD by the student. This evidence should be developmental and incremental as students should show an increase in their critical understanding and application of knowledge and skills as they work towards being autonomous in their practice, leading and coordinating care and demonstrating professional attributes.

Q. How will evidence be authenticated in the NIPAD?

A. All evidence in the NIPAD is required to be authenticated by a practice supervisor, practice assessor or link lecturer/practice tutor/academic assessor. In signing to authenticate evidence, this individual is verifying that the student did what they have claimed to have done, that it was done to standard, and that the content of the evidence reflects their performance.

Q. What are the assessment criteria in the NIPAD?

A. Assessment criteria in the NIPAD are based on the NMC Future Nurse: Standards of Proficiency for Registered Nurses and Standards for Education and Training (NMC 2018). These proficiencies have been designed by the NMC to apply across all four fields of nursing practice, in Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Q. When should the NIPAD be used?

A. The student should provide their NIPAD to their practice assessor within the first two days of practice learning. Students should keep their NIPAD with them at all times for review of progress and to document development and learning needs. The NIPAD contains a signature log and this should be completed by anyone who makes an entry into a student's NIPAD. It is used to verify the authenticity of signatures within the NIPAD.

Q. Who is responsible for the NIPAD?

A. The student takes responsibility for ensuring that all necessary parts of the NIPAD for practice learning are completed appropriately. The student is responsible for providing all of the NIPAD documentation to date, set out in a logical order while ensuring they maintain all NIPAD documentation in a safe and professional manner.

Q. What preparation will there be for staff regarding using the NIPAD?

A. A series of FNFM preparation programmes will include information on working with the NIPAD. These preparation programmes will become available over the coming months for all staff who have been identified by their line managers as practice assessors, practice supervisors, nominated persons or academic assessors. A NIPAD podcast will also be available which will provide a step by step guide on how to contribute to the NIPAD. The podcast will be available to all staff who will support students.

Q. What support will be available for staff?

A. A NIPAD Practice Learning Handbook will provide information and support to the student, their practice assessors, practice supervisors, academic assessors and nominated persons. The Handbook is an essential resource which outlines how the NIPAD works. The student will have the Handbook with them and will make it available to those staff supporting them in practice. A FNFM guide and support material will also come on-line via the NIPEC website in the coming months.

FNFM Communication

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

Project Manager: Frances Cannon, Senior Professional Officer, NIPEC: frances.cannon@nipec.hscni.net

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.

**Sharon Conlan
SHSCT**



**Rhonda Brown
BHSCT**



**Kerrie McLarnon
NHSCT**



**Carol McGinn
WHSCT**



**Joanne Fitzsimons
SEHSCT**



**Bernadette Gribben
NIPEC**

