

## Northern Ireland Implementation of the NMC Post-registration Standards for Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualifications (SPQ) & Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN) Communique (May 2023)

Welcome to the first edition of this Communique providing information and updates on the regional implementation of the new NMC post-registration standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice qualifications (SPQ) and specialist community public health nurses (SCPHN).

The standards were published in July 2022 and can be accessed [Here](#)

The updated NMC standards and proficiencies for community nursing SPQ and SCPHN reflect the changing landscape and ambition for public health and the care and treatment of people in the community. The standards are evidence-based and are designed to ensure that people can access highly skilled specialist support and care close to home.

The new NMC post-registration standards align with the Future Nurse standards (2018) and are to be read alongside the Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education (2018) and the Standards for student supervision and assessment (2018).

A recently published Frequently Asked Questions page relating to SCPHN and community nursing SPQ can now be accessed via the NMC website [scphn-and-spq-webinar-questions.pdf](#) ([nmc.org.uk](#))

NIPEC and the Department of Health (DoH) are working in partnership with key stakeholders to undertake this important programme of work to ensure that future community nursing SPQ and SCPHN education programmes are aligned to the new NMC post-registration standards (2022) and will be ready for commencement in September 2024.

### The Project Objectives:

- Support the Approved Education Institutions (AEI's) to implement the new NMC standards for SCPHN and community nursing SPQs into their education programmes using the principles of co-production and co-design with full implementation by September 2024
- Work in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure resources, systems and processes are in place for the implementation of the new education standards within practice
- Assess and determine the need for the inclusion of the independent/supplementary prescriber programme - V300 in new NMC post- registration programmes
- Update the DoH Specialist Career Framework to reflect the new NMC post-registration standards and proficiencies
- Develop effective engagement and communication strategies to prepare the education and healthcare systems for the implementation of the new NMC post registration standards.
- Make recommendations to support the development and transformation of Specialist and Advanced Level Practice.

## To Date

- In partnership with the DoH, NIPEC hosted an engagement event on the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 with key stakeholders to collectively discuss the implications and out workings of the standards on the current and future workforce of community nursing SPQ and SCPHN and in NI

A report on this event can be accessed [Here](#)

- A Project Steering Group has been established, this is co-chaired by the Chief Executive of NIPEC and the Deputy Chief Nursing Officer (DoH)
- Membership of the Steering Group includes stakeholders from the Education Provider Organisations, the HSC Trusts, Staff Side Organisations, the NMC and the independent, community and voluntary sectors. The Steering Group will use a co-production approach to provide oversight and agree the governance arrangements in achieving agreement of the project aim and objectives. The Project Plan and Terms of Reference can be accessed [Here](#)
- The Steering Group have held two meetings – the agendas and notes of the meetings can be accessed [Here](#)
- NIPEC have established a regional Post-registration Standards Collaborative with key stakeholders to take forward specific pieces of work as agreed by the Steering Group the agendas and notes of the meetings can be accessed [Here](#)
- On behalf of the Chief Nursing Officer, NIPEC are conducting an on-line survey to determine the number of nurses and midwives working in HSC Trusts who have completed a Non-Medical Prescribing (NMP) qualification since 2017 and how they are applying the qualification in their clinical practice. All nurses and midwives who have completed an NMP qualification since 2017 are strongly encouraged to respond as the results will help determine the future curricula of SCPHN and community nursing SPQ programmes. The survey is open from 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and closes on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and can accessed [here](#)
- NIPEC and programme coordinators for the SCPHN programme in Ulster University (UU), met with SCPHN managers and practitioners on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to discuss if the independent /supplementary prescriber programme - V300 should be integrated into the new programme
- NIPEC are engaging with UU through a series of stakeholder engagement events on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 on the NMC standards for community nursing specialist practice qualifications.



## Project Lead

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