

Regional implementation of the Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) and Specialist Practice Qualifications (SPQ) education programmes.

Key changes for Managers

NMC Post-registration Standards



[Standards for post registration - The Nursing and Midwifery Council \(nmc.org.uk\)](https://www.nmc.org.uk)

SPQ Community and Non-community Nursing Programmes

Regional agreement that in NI. the same principles and processes will be applied NMC approved community nursing SPQ programmes and non-community SPQ programmes

Entry Requirements for SCPHN & SPQ Programmes

– SPQ programmes

- NMC nurse (level 1) **AND** registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry on to the programme
- Hold a BSc Hons/ BSc Degree or evidence successful completion of academic study at level 6

– SCPHN programmes

- Registered nurse (level 1) or registered midwife on the live NMC Register - no timeframe on length of registration prior to application
 - Hold a BSc Hons/ BSc Degree or evidence successful completion of academic study at level 6
- Annotations on the NMC register will remain in place for NMC registrants who already hold a non-community SPQ qualification against the 2001 NMC standards.

Programme Structure

- SPQ/integrated prescribing programme: Part-time and full-time options available. Includes 90 practice learning days (an increase of 15 days) delivered in blocks of various lengths
- SCPHN: Part-time and full-time options available. Includes 130 practice learning days (an increase from 128 days) delivered in blocks of various lengths.

Selection and admission

- Programme places will be openly available and advertised across all relevant platforms, to enable eligible NMC registered nurses and or midwives including NHS, non-NHS, self-employed or self-funded/sponsored applicants apply for entry onto an NMC approved SCPHN and SPQ programmes.

New NMC SPQ Annotation

- New NMC SPQ qualification in Health and Social Care Practice with no specific field of practice

Service User representation

- Important that the public (service users), are involved in the planning, development and delivery of the programmes as well as in the recruitment, selection and progression of students on to these programmes.

Who can be a Practice Supervisor for SCPHN and SPQ students?

- Practice Supervisors (PS) will have an understanding of the proficiencies and programme outcomes that the student is required to achieve. They will:
 - have undertaken a period of preceptorship in line with the NMC principles for preceptorship as a SCPHN or a SPQ or
 - evidence prior learning and relevant PS experience that enables them to facilitate effective evidence-based learning opportunities for SCPHN or SPQ students.

Who can be a Practice Assessor for SCPHN students?

- The Practice Assessor (PA) must be an experienced registered SCPHN registrant qualified in the same field of the programme the student is undertaking.
- If this is not achievable; in agreement with the AEI and practice learning partners, the student should be assigned to a registered SCPHN who has extensive experience in the student's intended field of SCPHN practice.

Who can be a Practice Assessor for SPQ students?

- The student should be assigned to a Practice Assessor (PA) who is an experienced registered SPQ registrant qualified in the same field of the programme the student is undertaking.
- If this is not achievable; in agreement with the AEI and practice learning partners, the student should be assigned to a registered nurse who has extensive experience in the student's intended field of SPQ practice.

In addition....

- All Practice Assessors for SCPHN and SPQ programmes must also have:
 - undertaken a period of preceptorship in line with the NMC principles for preceptorship (NMC, 2022) as SCPHNs or SPQ, or
 - can evidence prior learning and relevant practice assessor experience that enables them to engage in fair, reliable and valid assessment processes in the context of SCPHN or SPQ.



Can a Practice Supervisor be a Practice Assessor at the same time?

- In exceptional circumstances, the same person may fulfil the role of the Practice Supervisor and Practice Assessor for students on post-registration programmes
- In such instances, the PEF, nominated person and the AEI will need to evidence why it is necessary for the PS and PA roles to be carried out by the same person and recorded in the Practice Assessment Document. This request will be considered, discussed and agreed with the AEI in advance of the student commencing the programme.

The SPQ/ Integrated Prescribing Programme

- The CNO agreed that the Independent and Supplementary prescribing programme (the V300) - should be seamlessly combined into the curriculum for **all SPQ programmes**.
- These programmes will be integrated with the proficiencies set out in the NMC Standards for post-registration programmes (2023) and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Competency Framework for all Prescribers (2021).
- Applicants applying for the SPQ programme with the integrated supplementary/independent prescribing programmes must be registered with the NMC for a minimum of one year prior to application for entry onto the programme.

The SPQ/ Integrated Prescribing Programme and the Practice Supervisor (PS)

- The student undertaking an NMC approved independent/supplementary prescribing qualification as part of a SPQ or stand-alone prescribing programme must have at least one PS who is a registered health care professional and a registered prescriber.
- The PS must have the skills to supervise and educate in order to help the student meet the outcomes of the NMC Standards for Prescribing Programmes (NMC, 2023) and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Competency Framework for all Prescribers (2021)

The SPQ /Integrated Prescribing Programme and the Practice Assessor (PA)

- SPQ students may require a PS/ PA for the SPQ part of the programme and a PS/PA for the prescribing part of the programme
- The prescribing PA must be a registered healthcare professional and an **experienced prescriber*** with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking (NMC, 2023)
- The RPS define **experienced prescriber** as an active prescriber who would normally have at least 3 years' recent prescribing experience

Thank you!

The text "Thank you!" is rendered in a highly decorative, hand-drawn style. Each letter is filled with a different color and has intricate patterns or textures. The 'T' is yellow with red patterns, 'h' is orange with red patterns, 'a' is green with black patterns, 'n' is purple with black patterns, 'k' is orange with red patterns, 'y' is green with black patterns, 'o' is pink with black patterns, and 'u' is blue with purple patterns. The exclamation point is blue with a green dot. Several colorful flowers (blue, pink, and purple) are scattered around the text, adding to the celebratory feel.