

Future Nurse Future Midwife

Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment

Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

In May 2018 the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) published education standards to shape the future of nursing and midwifery for future generations. The standards apply to all NMC approved programmes and aim to:

- raise the ambition in terms of what's expected of a nurse and midwife at the point of registration
- maximise the quality and safety of nursing and midwifery education and training.

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide some answers to frequently asked questions on the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (SSSA).

It provides information on the new SSSA roles of **practice supervisor**, **practice assessor**, **academic assessor** and the support provided by the **nominated person** and **Practice Education Teams** (HSCT) to undertake these roles.



For more information visit:



<https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-framework-for-nursing-and-midwifery-education/>

<http://www.nipec.hscni.net/work-and-projects/stds-of-ed-amg-nurs-mids/future-nurse-future-midwife/>



<https://www.facebook.com/nipec/>

@nipec_online

A more detailed guide and support material will be available via the NIPEC website. Future Nurse Future Midwife Roadshows are being delivered across the region from October 2019. To book a place, go to: <https://nipec.hscni.net/fnm-roadshows/>

If you would like to be included in FNFM communications and updates please send an email to:

Lheanna.Kent@nipec.hscni.net

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 will require all the proficiencies detailed within the Future nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses (2018).

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 details will be available in an escalating concerns/issues protocol within a more detailed guide.

Q. When will the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment (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; a date for their commencement is to be confirmed.

Q. Who will be the practice supervisors?

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

Q. How will the practice supervisor be prepared for this role?

A. A preparation programme will be available for all staff and will be delivered via ELearning 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 roles 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 assessors are NMC registrants. Current mentors, sign-off mentors and practice teachers will automatically transition into this role.

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

A. A preparation programme will be delivered via ELearning 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 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 being supported will be negotiated with the nominated person.

Q. Who will be the academic assessors?

A. The current link lecturer/practice tutor 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 do the roles of academic assessor, practice assessor and practice supervisor work together?

A. 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 to the nominated person, practice supervisors and practice assessors. In partnership with universities the Practice Education Team will support students to ensure that the NMC Education Standards (2018) are met.

Q. Who will provide professional support in the Independent Sector?

A. 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 contribute to the NIPAD should be negotiated with your manager/nominated person.