

Key Facts: on the Regional implementation of the NMC Post-registration Standards for Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN) and Community Nursing Specialist Practice Qualification* (SPQ)

*The following principles and processes will apply to all community and non-community SPQ programmes

Introduction and Context

- ✓ The NMC published new standards for post-registration SCPHN and community nursing SPQ programmes in July 2022.
- ✓ The updated SCPHN and community SPQ standards reflect the changing landscape and ambition for public health and the care and treatment of people in the community.
- ✓ The standards must be implemented by September 2024.
- ✓ The independent/supplementary prescribing (V300) is now seamlessly integrated into SPQ programmes in line with the proficiencies in the NMC Standards for Post-registration programmes (2023), the NMC Standards for Prescribing programmes (2023) and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society’s Competency Framework for all Prescribers (2021).

<p>SCPHN Standards include the following fields of practice:</p>	<p>There are six Spheres of influence which are Core (C) and Field(F) specific: Core standards apply to all fields of SCPHN practice. Field specific standards apply to HV, SN & OHN.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visitor (HV) • School Nurse (SN) • Occupational Health Nurse (OHN)** • Public Health Nurse (PHN)** 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Autonomous specialist community public health nursing practice (C) 2. Transforming specialist community public health nursing practice: evidence, research, evaluation and translation (C) 3. Promoting human rights and addressing inequalities: assessment, surveillance and intervention (C&F) 4. Population health: enabling, supporting and improving health outcomes of people across the life course (C&F) 5. Advancing public health services and promoting healthy places, environments and cultures (C&F) 6. Leading and collaborating: from investment to action and dissemination (C&F)
<p>SPQ standards include the following fields of community practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comm Children’s nursing • Comm Learning disabilities nursing • Comm Mental health nursing • District nursing • General practice nursing • Nursing in health and social care practice** 	<p>The community SPQ standards are organised under seven platforms, and were designed to ensure that across all fields of nursing practice, registered nurses are able to meet the person-centred, holistic care needs of the people they encounter in their practice who may have a range of mental, physical, cognitive, behavioural, social or spiritual needs.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Being an accountable, autonomous professional and partner in care 2. Promoting health and wellbeing and preventing ill health 3. Assessing people’s abilities and needs, and planning care 4. Providing and evaluating evidence-based care 5. Leading, supporting and managing teams 6. Leading improvements in safety and quality of care 7. Care coordination and system leadership

** Programmes currently not available in N.Ireland.

Student supervision and assessment for post-registration students undertaking SCPHN or SPQ programmes

The practice assessor;

- ✓ must be an experienced registered SCPHN or SPQ qualified in the same field of the programme the student is undertaking.
- ✓ will have completed a period of preceptorship in line with the NMC principles for preceptorship as a SCPHN or a SPQ nurse, 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 nursing.

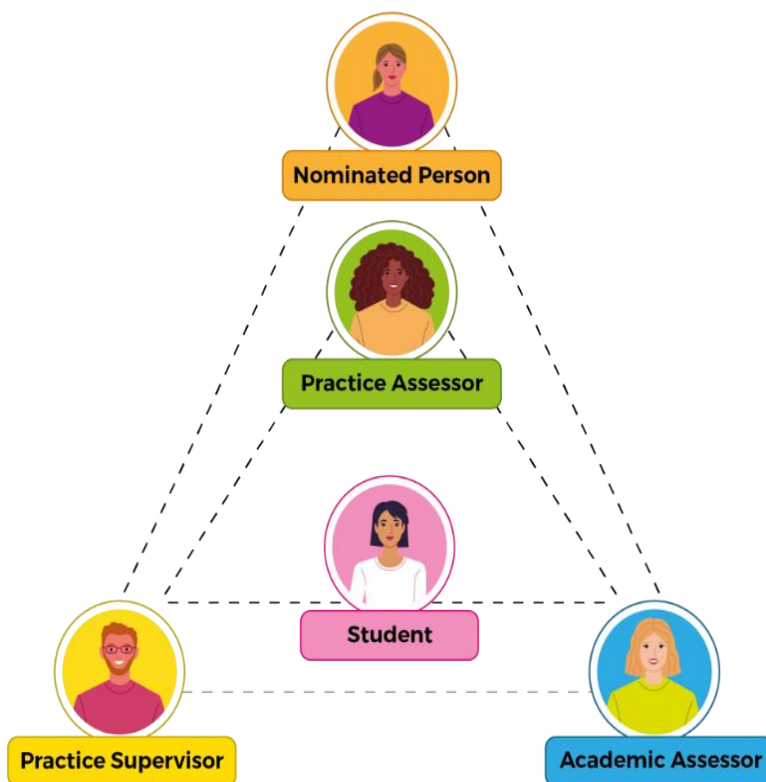
The student undertaking an NMC approved independent/supplementary prescribing qualification (V300) as part of an integrated prescribing/SPQ programme, or stand-alone prescribing programme, must be assigned to a practice assessor who is a registered healthcare professional and an **experienced prescriber** with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking

Where the SPQ practice assessor does not hold a prescribing qualification, a different practice assessor should be identified, who must be a registered health care professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking.

The academic assessor will;

- ✓ be a member or affiliated member of academic staff from the student's Approved Education Institution (AEI)
- ✓ be a registered nurse or midwife with relevant knowledge and experience of the programme the student is undertaking
- ✓ hold relevant qualifications as required by their AEI.

In exceptional circumstances, the same person may fulfil the role of practice supervisor and practice assessor for a part of the programme during the student's practice learning setting. In such instances, the Practice Education Facilitator, student, nominated person and the university will evidence why it was necessary for the practice supervisor and practice assessor roles to be carried out by the same person and these details will be recorded in the Practice Assessment Document.



The Nominated person will:

- ✓ be responsible for overseeing and ensuring the continuity of the student's learning
- ✓ assign students practice supervisor/s and practice assessor/s taking account of the student's scope of practice

The practice supervisor;

- ✓ must understand the proficiencies and programme outcomes that the student is required to achieve.
- ✓ will have completed a period of preceptorship in line with the NMC principles for preceptorship as a SCPHN or a SPQ nurse OR
- ✓ can evidence prior learning and relevant practice supervisor experience that enables them to **facilitate effective evidence-based learning opportunities** for SCPHN or SPQ students.

The student undertaking an NMC approved independent/supplementary prescribing qualification (V300) as part of a SPQ or stand-alone prescribing programme must have at least one practice supervisor, who is a registered health care professional and a registered prescriber.

Non NMC registered Practice Assessors and Practice Supervisors who are supporting students on the V300 element of the SPQ programme should undertake at least one regionally agreed preparation programme to enable them to fulfil this role.