**Implementation of NMC (2018) standards for student supervision and assessment.**

**For SCPHN and community specialist practitioner (CSP) programmes from September 2019**

**Overview**

All NMC programmes will move to the new NMC (2018) standards for the supervision and assessment (SSSA) of students from September 2019. Please note that this only applies to how students are supervised and assessed in practice.

**Who does this apply to?**

Students starting new SCPHN and CSP programmes from September 2019 onwards will start on the new standards.

**What will this mean in practice?**

The new NMC standards separate out the supervision of students and the assessment of students. This means that students will be allocated a practice supervisor AND a practice assessor in placement. They will work closely with the academic assessor from the University who will assess the student for the year.

**Will practice supervisors be the current mentors/sign-off mentors/practice teachers?**

Not necessarily, as there are now opportunities for more professionals to be involved in supervising students, which aligns with the current health and social care integration agenda. What is new is that all students can be supervised in practice by NMC registered nurses, midwives, nursing associates or other registered health and social care professionals. This means that a physiotherapist or social worker could be a supervisor where appropriate. The NMC expect that all registered nurses, midwives and nursing associates are capable of supervising students.

**Will practice assessors be the current practice teachers?**

The role is different to the current practice teacher or sign-off mentor role, but most practice teachers or sign-off mentors are likely to have the relevant prior learning and experience to enable them to meet the new NMC standards for practice assessor. For SCPHN students, practice assessors must be registered SCPHNs with appropriate equivalent experience for the student’s field of practice. For CSP students they must be a registered nurse with the appropriate equivalent experience in community nursing. To assess the prescribing element of the programme, the practice assessor must be a registered healthcare professional and an experienced prescriber with suitable equivalent qualifications for the programme the student is undertaking.

**Will current mentors or practice teachers have to do another course to be a practice supervisor or practice assessor?**

No, but it is likely that some updating may be required to meet the new standards. All practice supervisors and assessors must be able to demonstrate they can meet the required outcomes for the role, and the focus has shifted from attending courses to demonstrating they can meet the outcomes on a continual basis. A self-declaration form will be used, and upskilling available via a range of methods. All practice supervisors and assessors will require to be updated about the new standards and approach for supervising and assessing students.

**How will the assessment of practice work?**

The practice assessor will obtain feedback from practice supervisors and service users/carers, and in addition must observe the student in order to provide evidence for the assessment decision. The practice assessor works closely with the academic assessor based in the University, and who ensures that the assessment decision is evidence based and objective. Some of this collaboration may be via PARE, if used.

**For more details on the NMC standards see:** [**https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-for-student-supervision-and-assessment/**](https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards-for-education-and-training/standards-for-student-supervision-and-assessment/) **Version 1.2 April 2019**