

NMC circular	09/2008
Issue date	18 July 2008
Review date	September 2010
Replaces circular	New Circular
Category	Midwifery/nursing/general public health/standards
Status	Action/information

Publication of the updated edition of NMC *Standards to support learning and assessment in practice*

Summary

- This circular sets out the ways in which the current NMC *Standards to support learning and assessment in practice* has been updated and confirms dates for implementation of the ongoing achievement record, requirements for development of local mentor and practice teacher registers and changes to the process for NMC recognition of other teaching qualifications.
 - Please note that all the documents referred to below together with additional information to facilitate implementation of the Standards to support learning and assessment in practice are available on a dedicated section of the NMC website (<http://www.nmc-uk.org/aArticle.aspx?ArticleID=2649>). This section will be used to post future updates and new information as it becomes available.
-
- **Publication of the new edition of NMC Standards to support learning and assessment in practice**
The second edition of NMC *Standards to support learning and assessment in practice* (the Standards) has now been published and will be available from **18 July 2008** on the NMC website and to order as hard copies. There are no fundamental changes to the overall principles or the developmental framework of roles to support learning and assessment in practice which were introduced in the 2006 edition of the Standards. The updated edition provides additional information to facilitate implementation and gives greater clarity to particular aspects of the Standards. It is aimed predominantly at programme and placement providers and those who commission NMC education programmes.
 - **Implementation of the ongoing achievement record (OAR)**
NMC Circular 33/2007 *Ensuring continuity of practice assessment through the ongoing achievement record* (<http://www.nmc-uk.org/aFrameDisplay.aspx?DocumentID=3452>) set out the principles for sharing of personal information necessary to maintain continuity of information through the OAR incorporated within the assessment of practice document. The requirements of this circular must be in place for all students commencing NMC approved programmes from 1 September 2008.
 - **Local registers of mentors and practice teachers**
The Standards (2006) introduced a requirement for placement providers to develop and maintain local registers of current mentors and practice teachers and annotation of sign-off mentors. Currently, placement providers populate local registers with a 'critical mass' of mentors/ sign-off mentors and practice teachers. These should be individuals who are

already practising safely and effectively in relation to the roles of mentor/ sign-off mentor and practice teacher and can demonstrate that they meet the criteria and outcomes for the respective roles. This critical mass have not been required to undertake further preparation and those already able to demonstrate safe, effective practice in relation to signing off proficiency at the end of a programme have not been required to be supervised by an existing sign-off mentor.

As from 1 September 2008, this method of identifying mentors, practice teachers and midwifery mentors (all of whom must also be sign-off mentors) will cease. As from 1 September 2009, it will also cease for sign-off mentors for nursing students. After these dates, any individuals newly entered onto local registers must have completed an NMC mentor/ practice teacher preparation programme (or utilised AP(E)L processes within a local HEI), and sign-off mentors must have undertaken the requisite supervised sign-off experience. The only exception will be where an individual has transferred from another area where their name has previously been entered on a local register and can demonstrate continuing safe, effective practice in relation to the respective role. Such individuals should also be able to meet the requirements for triennial review.

- **NMC recognition of other teaching qualifications**

The NMC offers a route for registered nurses and midwives who have undertaken a generic teaching qualification to be able to record this as 'teacher' on the NMC register. This involves mapping their learning and experience to demonstrate that all the NMC stage 4 outcomes have been met. Currently, this evidence is verified by a registered nurse or midwife employed at an NMC approved education institution who has a teaching qualification recorded on the register. This is subsequently assessed by an education adviser at the NMC to ensure that all of the stage 4 outcomes have been met. As a result, the process can be time consuming and arguably involves duplication of assessment. It has, therefore, been decided that, from 1 September 2008, the verifier within the education institution will be the official assessor confirming to the NMC that sufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate achievement of all the stage 4 outcomes. This will be monitored through NMC quality assurance processes.

This circular may be reproduced by all to whom it is addressed.

This circular has been issued by

Sarah Thewlis
Chief Executive and Registrar
Nursing & Midwifery Council