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University



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Greater Manchester
Practice Education Facilitators' Forum

Students Visiting Clients in the Community:

Guidance for Students, Mentors, Practice Supervisors, Practice Assessors and Academic Assessors for Undergraduate Nursing and Midwifery Programmes

The term Mentor in this document relates to Mentors and Practice Teachers aligned to the NMC (2008) standards and will be superseded by the NMC (2018) Standards for Supervision and Assessment in Practice for all NMC Approved programmes from September 2019.

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This guidance is to be read in conjunction with local lone working policies.

As far as the NMC is concerned, registered practitioners are accountable for student acts and omissions. Students are however responsible for their practice and can be called to account by University or the law.

The implications of this in clinical placements are:

- The registered practitioner has responsibility for client care delivered by a student.
- Pre-registration students should always work under the supervision of a registered practitioner.
- When delegating duties to students, registered practitioners must ensure that the student is competent to undertake the practice.
- Students must inform mentors, practice supervisors, and /or practice assessors and registrants if an aspect of care is beyond their present competency. The NMC also states that the rights of patients supersede students learning needs.

The implications of this in practice placements are:

- Students must make it quite clear that they are not a registered practitioner when introducing themselves to clients or talking on the phone.
- Students should respect client wishes if they refuse or withdraw consent for their involvement in care.
- Confidentiality of client's private and personal information must be ensured.

The Universities of Salford, Manchester, Bolton and Manchester Metropolitan University are preparing students to be a registered practitioners both in hospital and community settings, therefore it is appropriate that students on their final placement are given the opportunity to experience the role they will be undertaking following registration and for midwifery students to enable them to gain case loading practice experience within their pre-registration programme, as required by NMC (2010).

However, the guidance from the NMC and Local Trust Policies must be adhered to.

Students may visit client's homes on their own under indirect supervision to deliver care if the following process and criteria is adhered to and they are deemed competent by mentor practice supervisors, and/or practice assessors or registrants:

- Specific Trust Lone working policies are adhered to.
- Only 3rd year students can visit alone; for pre-registration nursing this is only during the final placement.
- Students should not be undertaking any activity on their own that requires a registered practitioner, legally or because of local trust policy.
- Before visiting any client independently students must be adequately prepared by

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their mentor, practice supervisor and/or practice assessor or registrant.

- Following a visit to a client the student must report to the registered practitioner.

The following guideline stages are recommended to prepare students for visiting clients on their own:

OBSERVE – first hand observation of care given to the client by the mentor, practice supervisor, and/or practice assessor / registrant.

LEARN - Student independent study of theory, principles & protocols, registered practitioner teaches new skills adapts existing skills.

PRACTICE – Student delivers care, under direct supervision, until registered practitioner is assured that they have the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary to competently deliver the care.

Mentors, practice supervisors, and/or practice assessors or registrants will make the final decision to delegate patients to students based on the following considerations:

Suitability of clients

- Students must have been involved in the care of the client under the direct supervision of a registered practitioner.
- Intervention or situation must be predictable.
- There are no legal or trust policy restrictions to students delivering care.
- There is an agreement between the student and mentor of the suitability of the client.
- The mentor, practice supervisor, and/or practice assessor or registrants must obtain the consent of the clients.

Risk management

- A written risk assessment must be completed prior to the agreement of the student visiting on their own.
- Students must be made aware of action to take in case of unforeseen events.
- Mentors practice supervisor, and/or practice assessor or registrants must ensure students understand the local lone worker policy.
- Students must be aware of trust protocols relating to the aspect of care being delivered.
- Mentor practice supervisor, and/or practice assessor or registrant assesses the household / neighbourhood as safe.

Support

- Mentor practice supervisor, and/or practice assessor or registrant must ensure that students can be fully briefed prior to the client visit.
- Students must have immediate access to a registered practitioner's mobile phone. (If

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the student does not have a mobile phone, visits should be restricted to houses with a phone).

- After the visit, on the same day the student must give a report / reflect upon care given to each registered practitioner/s responsible for client care.
- Students must discuss their practice with their mentor practice supervisor, and/or practice assessor or registrant in regular supervision sessions.

Transportation

Geographical location of visits must be considered – within 'safe' walking distance and students need to be made aware of the route(s).

Students may use their own cars for visits if the student holds a full driving licence; the car is roadworthy and is appropriately insured (See local policies).

The car insurance policy must contain the words "in connection with the businesses of the policyholder". If the student is not the policyholder, they should check with the insurance company that they are covered for travelling between client houses/clinics.

Students must produce a copy of their car insurance certificate for the HEI if requested and as appropriate, before commencing placement.

Neither the University nor the NHS Trust accepts any liability relating to, or from the use of student's vehicles.

Students must not carry patients as passengers.