

Angelo Varetto
Skills for Health
Vertigo
Cheese Lane
Bristol
BS2 0JJ

28 February 2023

Dear Angelo

Community Nurse Specialist Practitioner Standard (CNSP) apprenticeship response

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Community Nurse Specialist Practitioner Standard. As you will be aware, the NMC has developed and rolled out a strategic programme of change for education for nurses and midwives.

The new NMC [standards of proficiency for community nursing specialist practice](#) qualifications (SPQ) reflect the knowledge, skills and attributes required by nurses working in the community in any roles which involve more autonomous decision making, in situations that require registered nurses to manage greater clinical complexity and risk, both in terms of the people they care for, the caseloads they manage and the services they work within, which in turn may be integrated with other agencies, professionals and disciplines.

In 2018 we published new standards of proficiency for registered nurses and these are organised under seven headings, and were designed to ensure that across all four 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.

This format and ambition has been followed through to our new community nursing SPQs in demonstrating what professionals with these qualifications need to know and be able to do that surpasses the 2018 standards to meet the diverse and often complex needs of people of all ages, in their home, in settings close to home and in the community.

These post-registration standards apply to the five fields of community nursing practice qualifications we have now and a new community nursing SPQ in Health and Social Care, however the evidence base and their application in these different fields of community nursing practice will differ.

23 Portland Place, London W1B 1PZ
020 7637 7181
www.nmc.org.uk

We're the independent regulator for nurses and midwives in the UK, and nursing associates in England. Our vision is safe, effective and kind nursing and midwifery practice that improves everyone's health and wellbeing.

Registered charity in England and Wales (1091434) and in Scotland (SC038362)

Our [Standards for post-registration programmes](#) specify what education providers and their placement partners need to do to deliver programmes which will lead to meeting our standards of proficiency and an annotation of a qualification in a particular community nursing SPQ. These programme standards should be read with the NMC [Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education](#) and [Standards for student supervision and assessment](#) which apply to all NMC approved programmes. Education providers and their placement partners must meet our programme standards in order to be approved to deliver a programme and in ensuring that students learning is tailored to meet the proficiencies which leads to one of the community nursing SPQs: community children's nursing, community learning disabilities nursing, community mental health nursing, district nursing, general practice nursing or community nursing in health and social care.

The new community nursing SPQ in health and social care annotation does not specify a particular field of community nursing role and can be applied to registered nurses who work in different community roles, including potential new roles that are emerging in the community however education providers are expected to specify the different field of community nursing.

NMC approved education providers and their practice learning partners are responsible and accountable for the development, delivery and management of post-registration programme curricula. The individual learning needs of students should be taken into account and learning should be tailored for the intended field of practice. Post-registration community nursing programmes may offer various routes to SPQ qualification however, all programmes must include routes within the programme specific to the relevant fields of community nursing specialist practice for which approval is being sought.

A prescribing qualification is optional for community nursing SPQ programmes. Where programmes offer post-registration community nursing students admission to an NMC approved independent/supplementary prescribing programme(V300) it will be mapped too the [RPS Competency Framework for all Prescribers](#).

Specific comments about the Community Nurse Specialist Practitioner Standard

Professionals on our register already possess the knowledge and skills required to become registered nurses. These specialist community nursing standards of proficiency state the additional knowledge and skills required for community nursing SPQs. They must also be able to demonstrate a greater depth of knowledge in their chosen fields of nursing practice and the additional specialist skills required to meet the specific care needs of people at home and in the community.

We welcome the efforts to ensure that the apprenticeship standard reflect our updated 2022 post-registration standards for community nursing specialist practice qualifications. We would welcome clear communication with post-registration students and apprenticeship providers that the end point assessment is not a NMC requirement for qualification and annotation, instead that it is a necessary requirement set by the Institute for apprenticeships and technical education and clarity of the qualification awarded.

All AEs who wish to offer this apprenticeship will need to have this route approved by the NMC prior to commencing the programme. As part of [our quality assurance](#) (QA) process, institutions will need to submit evidence to show how they meet our new post-registration standards. All post-registration education providers must have new programmes approved against the new standards by 1 September 2024. We have information on our website of how we [QA apprenticeship programmes](#) and education providers can email our [QA team](#) with any QA related enquiries.

We look forward to working with you further on the Community Nurse Specialist Practitioner Standard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anne Trotter', written over a horizontal line.

Anne Trotter
Assistant Director, Education and Standards

anne.trotter@nmc-uk.org

020 7681 5779