

Programme Audit/Major Modification report

Programme provider:	Chester, University of
In partnership with: (Associated practice placement providers involved in the delivery of the programme)	Countess of Chester Hospital Foundation Trust Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust East Cheshire NHS Trust Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
Date of review:	06 Sep 2019
Type of Modification	Desktop
Provision reviewed:	Return to Practice Midwifery
Title of current programme:	Return to Practice Midwifery - Level 6
Title of modified programme if changed:	
Academic level of current programme:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 11
Academic level of modified programme if changed:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 11

Reviewer:	Ms Nicola Clark
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Outcome of Approval Panel Meeting	
Outcome:	Recommended for approval
Conditions and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	<p>Resources None identified</p> <p>Admission and progression None identified</p> <p>Practice learning None identified</p> <p>Fitness for practice None identified</p> <p>Quality assurance None identified</p>
Date conditions to be met:	
Recommendations and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to: Note: recommendations will be assessed through the AEI annual self-assessment report	None identified
Date conditions met:	
Programme start date:	16 Sep 2019

Summary

Summary of modification request

At the University of Chester (UoC), the return to practice (RtP) midwifery programme is provided within the faculty of health and social care (FHSC). The programme was approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) in 2012.

The programme team presented documentation for a modification to the approved RtP midwifery programme to change from the Standards to support learning and assessment in practice (SLAiP) (NMC, 2008) to the Standards for student supervision and assessment (SSSA) (NMC, 2018) from September 2019.

Documentary evidence provides assurance of robust working relationships between the UoC and associated practice learning partners (PLPs), service users and approved education institutions (AEIs) who share practice learning environments. The four AEIs within the Cheshire and Merseyside (C and M) consortium have an established collaborative relationship in developing shared systems to ensure NMC approved programmes comply with regulatory standards. The supervisors and assessors' subgroup from the C and M curriculum and validation group have developed guidance, role descriptors and proposed supporting information on the SSSA.

There is a clear strategy for the implementation of the SSSA for the return to practice midwifery programme. Documentary evidence confirms there are clear and comprehensive arrangements in place to prepare practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors for their new roles to meet the SSSA.

There are no existing students to transfer to the SSSA.

The modification is recommended to the NMC for approval.

Feedback from key stakeholders

Presenting Team

A desktop review. A Skype call was held on 6 September with the lead midwife for education (LME) and representatives from the UoC.

Mentors, sign-off mentors, practice teachers and employers

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Students

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Service users and carers

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Examples of notable and innovative practice and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to compliance of education standards and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to the student learning environment and standards they relate to

None identified

Any other risks to public protection

None identified

Areas for future monitoring

- The implementation of the SSSA.

Outcome recommendation

The programme is recommended to the NMC for approval.

NMC Standards

Please refer to [Standards relating to return to practice courses](#) (NMC,2016) and [Revalidation](#) (NMC 2016), which must be read in conjunction with The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives, NMC, 2015 and Section one of the Mott MacDonald [QA Handbook](#).

Returning to practice

Programme specific standard: Admission

What we found:

The standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.

Outcome:	Standard met
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Date standards met:	
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Revised outcome:	
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Return to practice / revalidation and The Code: Professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives, NMC, 2015

Return to practice outcomes must include:

1. an understanding of the influence of health and social care policy relevant to the practice of nursing and midwifery.
2. an understanding of the requirements of legislation, guidelines, codes of practice and policies relevant to the practice of nursing and midwifery.
3. an understanding of the current structure and organisation of care, nationally and locally.

4. an understanding of current issues in nursing and midwifery education and practice.
5. the use of relevant research and literature to inform the practice of nursing and midwifery.
6. the ability to be able to identify and assess need, design and implement interventions and evaluate outcomes in all relevant areas of practice, including the effective delivery of appropriate emergency care.
7. the ability to use appropriate communications, teaching and learning skills.
8. the ability to function effectively in a team and participate in a multi-professional approach to people's care.
9. the ability to identify strengths and weaknesses, acknowledge limitations of competence, and recognise the importance of maintaining and developing professional competence.

What we found:

There are no changes to the learning outcomes of the approved RtP midwifery programme since the approval in 2012. The change made is to the RtP midwifery practice assessment documentation (PAD) to meet the SSSA requirements.

The RtP midwifery programme has a range of practice documentation, which includes the ongoing record of achievement for the programme. There is a RtP midwifery practice portfolio which includes observed structured clinical examinations (OSCEs). All these practice documents have been updated to align with the SSSA. The RtP midwifery PAD has been updated to outline the new roles and responsibilities of the practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors and their individual and shared contributions to the assessment and progression of students in accordance with the SSSA.

Assurance has been provided by the LME, with documentary evidence of agreement with PLPs, that there's a clear strategy for transfer arrangements and preparation of midwives in relation to the implementation of the SSSA from September 2019.

Practice leads and the midwifery programme team are actively engaged in implementing the SSSA. The preparation of practice staff for the practice supervisor and practice assessor roles to meet the SSSA requirements has been ongoing since March 2019.

Existing sign-off mentors will transfer to the role of practice assessor following attendance at an assessor workshop taking place between July and September 2019.

The new assessor workshops will be part of each NHS trust's existing mandatory

maternity annual training programme. Academic links in practice (ALPs) work in collaboration with practice development midwives (PDMs) and practice education facilitators (PEFs) to deliver the SSSA preparation workshops. They will support and monitor progress, completion and adequacy of the numbers of practice supervisors and assessors.

Students enrolled onto the RtP midwifery programme will be introduced to the SSSA on commencement of the programme. A nominated practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor will be identified prior to the RtP student commencing practice learning placements. The named individuals will be documented and visible within the PAD.

The RtP midwifery programme will establish a series of planned contacts with the practice supervisor and practice assessor at designated points throughout the programme.

The FHSC has developed an academic assessor job role, which covers all NMC approved programmes. This role covers the SSSA requirement to collate and confirm student achievement of proficiencies and programme outcomes. This is supported by an academic assessor preparation workshop and a guidance handbook. There is a self-declaration form that is completed by the academic assessor to confirm confidence in their preparation for the role of academic assessor.

The academic assessor has due regard and will work collaboratively with the student's nominated practice supervisor and practice assessor to discuss student conduct, proficiency and achievement.

The ALP works in collaboration with the PDMs and the PEFs to ensure the practice learning areas are well planned and resourced. Student allocations are planned well in advance.

There is evidence and assurance that a clear strategy has been developed for preparation of practice learning teams to support the transfer to the SSSA for the RtP midwifery programme. The SSSA are met at programme level.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	

Revised outcome:	

Programme specific standard: Length and nature of programme	
Not less than five days	
Length and nature determined by education provider and practitioner.	
Midwives to discuss with lead midwife for education.	
To take into account:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. registration history 2. previous levels of knowledge and experience 3. relevant experience undertaken while out of practice 	
What we found:	
The standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

<u>NMC Circular 03/2011</u> - Resources to support programme intentions	
Programme providers must provide evidence at programme approval that resources are currently available to support programme intentions.	
What we found:	

<p>Documentary evidence and discussion confirms resources are in place to implement and support the SSSA. Partnership agreements are in place and supported by effective partnership working across the north west region.</p> <p>The north west audit tool via the InPlace placement management system evidences that there are systems, processes, resources and individuals to ensure effective learning opportunities within the practice learning environments. UoC will continue to work in partnership with PLPs to undertake educational audits to monitor the effectiveness of the practice learning environments and compliance with the SSSA.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Evidence and references list
<p>UoC FHSC academic assessor preparation and guidance version one, 2019</p> <p>UoC InPlace audit tool user guide for academics: a system user guide for academics version one, 2018</p> <p>C and M consortium curriculum development and validation group notes, March 2019</p> <p>UoC partnership agreement with local AEIs and associated PLPs, 30 May 2019</p> <p>C and M factsheet for supervisors and practice assessors, version three, undated</p> <p>C and M understanding professional supervision for learners in practice, undated</p> <p>C and M understanding professional assessment of learners in practice, undated</p> <p>UoC letter to heads of midwifery, undated</p> <p>UoC preparatory two-day workshop for new registrants for practice supervisor role, undated</p> <p>UoC practice assessor half day workshop 2019, version four revised for midwifery programme, undated</p>

C and M SSSA checklist for practice learning environments, undated
Northwest practice education group (NWPEG) practice assessor self-declaration form, undated
NWPEG academic assessor self-declaration form version two, 6 June 2019
NMPEG practice supervisor self-declaration form, undated
NWPEG terms of reference, February 2019
UoC return to midwifery practice programme handbook MW6007, 2019-2020

Personnel supporting programme approval	
Members of Approval Panel	
Not applicable - Desktop review.	
Programme Presenters	
A desktop review. The QA visitor had a Skype call on 6 September 2019 with:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UoC director of practice learning • UoC senior lecturer and programme leader for return to practice midwifery • UoC senior lecturer and programme leader for BSc (Hons) Midwifery • UoC deputy head of midwifery, child and reproductive health • UoC head of midwifery, child and reproductive health and LME 	
Were any service providers visited?	
<i>Not applicable - Desktop review.</i>	
Meetings with others	
Mentors / sign-off mentors	
Practice teachers	
Service users / Carers	
Practice Education Facilitator	
Director / manager nursing	

Director / manager midwifery	
Education commissioners or equivalent	
Designated Medical Practitioners	
Other (please specify)	

If there were no representatives present during the approval event please state why:
Not applicable - Desktop review.

Meetings with students

Nursing					
Adult		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Mental Health		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Children's		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Learning Disabilities		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Midwifery (3 year)		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Midwifery (18 month)		Year 1	Year 2		
SCPHN		HV	SN	OH	FHN
					RPHN

Learning and Assessment in Practice		Mentor	Practice Teacher	Teacher
Nurse Prescribing		V100	V150	V300
Specialist Practice		Adult	Mental Health	Children's
		Learning Disability	General Practice Nursing	Community Mental Health Nursing
		Community Learning Disabilities Nursing	Community Children's Nursing	District Nursing

Additional evidence viewed

No additional evidence was viewed.

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Issue record

Author:	Nicola Clark	Date:	06 Sep 2019
Checked by:	Judith Porch	Date:	20 Sep 2019
Approved by:	Leeann Greer	Date:	23 Sep 2019
