 

Practice Supervisor/Practice Assessor Newsletter February 2021

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Healthcare Student PACT

The Healthcare Student PACT has now been published on HEIW web pages: [https://heiw.nhs.wales/news/pact-supporting-healthcare-students-safe-entry-into-practice-learning-environments-during-pandemic-conditions/](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheiw.nhs.wales%2Fnews%2Fpact-supporting-healthcare-students-safe-entry-into-practice-learning-environments-during-pandemic-conditions%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cjane.jones%40bangor.ac.uk%7Ca59829dc5a2b433ecbe208d8a35172f9%7Cc6474c55a9234d2a9bd4ece37148dbb2%7C0%7C0%7C637438917514504765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YnJyVRwm8vLfStVpW8KZ6%2BYTiiBcbnv%2B6ojnL3tdsIw%3D&reserved=0) with an accompanying social media film.

The PACT document presents a series of pledges to support students’ entry into practice learning environments during on-going pandemic conditions. The pledges draw together a number of principles and arrangements designed to help alleviate student anxiety at this time. These elements signal all efforts that organisations in Wales are making to do whatever is possible to support students’ continuation on their programmes of learning, emphasising particularly their status as essential workers.

Student Nurse Reflection

Chloe a student nurse reflects on how her placements so far have supported in her learning and in particular an exceptional placement that has nurtured her learning and development.

*Having had a few placements to date, there has been a mixture of experiences from a learning perspective in the different settings. For those placement areas that I look back on with a smile, they are usually the ones where I have felt truly nurtured by the practice educator/s. To be nurtured, to me, means having that strong support of the educator, who takes you under their wing and dedicates time to help you learn and develop. It also includes having the freedom to expand my learning whilst on the placement as much as possible. One particular placement really excelled at this and that was in cardiology. I was fortunate to have two educators (2x mentors as it was then), who had very differing styles, however both coached me passionately to be the best that I could be. They advocated for me to follow the patient journey and spend time with members of the multi-disciplinary team, away from the ward. I was also managing my own patients and delivering handover at the end of shift. As a first year, this was such an incredible learning experience for me. When I first commenced placement there, I was given a student information pack, which also included some exercises to complete, aiding additional learning and reflection. This was great to do in my own time and then go through it whenever we had a chance at work (informally). I still refer to this booklet now!*

*Additionally, I was lucky enough to spend a week in a minor injuries unit and again, was blown away by the commitment of the team there to nurture students. Whenever there was a patient, the ENP stood back and allowed me to assess the patients – only stepping in to provide supplementary assessment/information. The patients had confidence in me and that was mostly due to the fact I felt confident in myself/my ability, with having such fantastic mentorship. In between patients, the nurse would pretend to have an injury/ailment and test my knowledge on assessing, diagnosing, planning and intervention. We would always reflect on each patient and the nurse would ask me how I thought it went, in addition to what I felt I could improve on. It was fantastic and I learnt so much in such a short time! Times are tough at the minute and everyone is ridiculously busy and pressured. Please do remember what it felt like to be a student. We’re eager to get involved and learn as much from you as we possibly can, before we ourselves are thrust into the world of being a NQN. Nurture us and allow us to flourish whilst we are with you.*

Student Nurse Documentation

As part of the transition to the new standards you may see changes to the documentation within the student’s portfolio for some cohorts. This is the transition document and the only changes you will see is that the grey evidence boxes to be signed by the Practice Supervisor with the final achievement of competence box signed by the Practice Assessor the competencies remain the same. The transition document contains the new orientation to practice learning environment checklist.

Student Nurse Record of Achievement Transition Document

There has been some confusion regarding the signing of the student record of achievement transition document. For those students with the transition document they must be allocated a named Practice Supervisor and a named Practice Assessor. The **Practice Supervisor** (yellow arrow) signs the**evidence** grey boxes appropriately, evidenced by direct observation, feedback from others, or patient records/ documents and the **Practice Assessor** (blue arrow) **signs the achieved box which equates to the NMC advice that the PA confirms achievement.** The Practice Supervisor may have more than one box to sign for each competency.



Practice Supervision & Practice Assessor preparation for nurses (not for midwives currently)

In addition to the online course we are now delivering the transition session every Tuesday 2-3.30pm via Teams. To access the Teams sessions or the online courses please email [pef@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:pef@bangor.ac.uk) with your name, place of work and which course (full title) you with to complete.

Mentor Transition to Practice Supervisor/Practice Assessor: (online or via Teams)

**This course is for current mentors and sign off mentors only**

Practice Supervisor/Practice Assessor Preparation:

**This course is for all registered health care professionals who have not attended any previous education & training to support students**

Support

We are currently unable to visit clinical areas however we are still here to support you. If you have anything you need to ask us or require support with please contact the PEF team at the e mail below. If you would prefer to speak to a member of the team please include a contact number and someone will contact you.

**Contact the Team**

To contact a member of the Practice Education Facilitator team (PEF’s) direct with any issues, concerns or queries regarding students, placements etc. please use the generic e mail [pef@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:pef@bangor.ac.uk)

**Future Midwife**

Midwifery programmes in Wales transitioned to SSSA (NMC Standards for Supervision and Assessment [2018]) alongside current validated curricula at the start of the pandemic however, we will soon be preparing for formal implementation of SSSA as we move towards the implementation of revised midwifery programmes, approved against the future midwife standards. Revised programmes will commence in Sept 2022.

As we reported in the last newsletter, we have adopted a “Once for Wales” approach for the implementation of SSSA for revised midwifery programmes. Following the successful stakeholder events which consulted on the All Wales principles for SSSA, work is now ongoing for the development of preparation training and updating for your role as a Practice Supervisor (PS) and/or Practice Assessor (PA) alongside revised midwifery programmes. Key to this, will be information about a new midwifery practice assessment document (MPAD) for implementation in revised programmes commencing in Sept 2022.   

**Practice Supervision & Practice Assessor preparation**

We are currently unable to provide face to face in-person update sessions therefore we have provided a recorded update presentation which replaces your mentor update for mandatory training. Here is the link for this presentation:

[https://bangor.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=26bdb647-62ab-4a23-a418-ac4b0112fd77](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fbangor.cloud.panopto.eu%2FPanopto%2FPages%2FViewer.aspx%3Fid%3D26bdb647-62ab-4a23-a418-ac4b0112fd77&data=04%7C01%7Cs.j.s.brown%40bangor.ac.uk%7C22db44929b2a4f3aeb7a08d8c845041d%7Cc6474c55a9234d2a9bd4ece37148dbb2%7C0%7C0%7C637479546027596288%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9h9CuPtUAWj%2FqSd1M8mxV5JRPYzPW%2FTzQDBr9Pvot0s%3D&reserved=0)

This has been shared with your Team Leaders and Managers and also shared on the BCUHB midwives Facebook hub.  

We are also planning to attend acute and community team meetings over the next few months to answer any specific questions. However, if you are unable to attend, we are still offering virtual drop-in sessions for teams of four or more midwives, please email [Lisa.orhan@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:Lisa.orhan@bangor.ac.uk) noting your names and email address and an online session can be arranged.  

**What changes will you see to Documentation?**

At the present time, alongside the current validated midwifery programme, the practice assessment document or portfolio will remain the same, apart from that the signatory areas will reflect the new roles of PS, PA and Academic Assessor (AA).

Due to the pandemic, it is really important to ensure ongoing documentation of student progression in their M[M]AP and portfolio, in case you need to self-isolate, or are absent for a period of time.

If you require updating on the current midwifery M[M]AP/portfolio then contact the link tutor or PEF from the midwifery education team at Bangor University for your area (see details below).

The LME, Sheila Brown, will circulate a short recorded session about completing the M[M]AP/portfolio. This is a session for students and PS and PAs.

**What support is available for me as a PS and/or PA?**

Developing the future midwife standards into the reality of a revised curriculum is ongoing work at the moment and there will be further updates available in due course. Some of you have already contributed to some of the development work locally and we may be asking for input from you again. Video updates will be regularly circulated to provide you with an update of developments..

The midwifery education team are here to support you. If you have anything you need to ask us or require support with please contact the link tutor (or PEF) in your area:

**West: Julie Roberts:** [**j.g.roberts@bangor.ac.uk**](mailto:j.g.roberts@bangor.ac.uk)

**Central: Mary Longworth:** [**m.longworth@bangor.ac.uk**](mailto:m.longworth@bangor.ac.uk)

**East: Sheila Brown:** [**s.j.s.brown@bangor.ac.uk**](mailto:s.j.s.brown@bangor.ac.uk)

**Lisa Orhan:** [**lisa.orhan@bangor.ac.uk**](mailto:lisa.orhan@bangor.ac.uk)