



Frequently Asked Questions – SSSA Workstream

These responses were shared in January 2019 and updated in May 2021.

1) How will allied health professionals be involved as practice supervisors?

Any registered allied health professional (AHP) working within the inter-professional team can be involved as a practice supervisor for the student on an NMC programme provided they have:

- a) Completed education preparation in line with their professional body – for example clinical educator / practice educator preparation
- b) Completed preparation to understand the curriculum requirements and the scope and role of the practice supervisor. This may be virtual or face to face delivery.
- c) Taken responsibility for facilitating the learning of the student in order to maximise inter-professional learning opportunities on placement and to give feedback as required to the student and to the practice assessor.

How allied health professionals work as practice supervisors will depend on how your placement area links into a wider team of AHP staff. In some placements there may be many AHP staff and fewer nurses, and in this case it may be that being able to include AHP's as practice supervisors once they have had preparation will provide a great opportunity for all students. In other placements where you may have more nurses and AHPs all acting as practice supervisors, it may provide great opportunities to link together and exchange students from different disciplines to get them working together with different supervisors and increase their understanding all roles of staff across the inter-professional team.

For more information on the practice supervisor role please see the NMC supporting information at: <https://www.nmc.org.uk/supporting-information-on-standards-for-student-supervision-and-assessment/practice-supervision/>

2) Who will be the practice supervisors?

From the existing workforce it is planned that all current mentors will act as practice supervisors. They will need to complete 'transition' from mentor to supervisor and assessor, online or face to face. It is also very likely that staff who have acted as associate mentors will move into the practice supervisor role after preparation and also that allied health professionals can be practice supervisors after preparation too. Initially many practice supervisors came from the pool of mentors, but by 2021 we have staff new to supporting students who are preparing to be supervisors. Newly qualified staff may have also completed supervisor preparation as part of their NMC programme.

3) Who will be the practice assessors?

From the existing workforce of mentors most transitioned to become practice assessors, either face to face or via online preparation and transition sessions.

In 2021 practice assessors come from experienced practice supervisors who are NMC registered. This is a requirement for all practice assessors for students on an NMC programme – nursing, nursing associates or midwifery students.

For Nurse Prescribing programmes, in some circumstances the practice assessor will be a qualified prescriber (not always NMC registered, but maybe a medic or a pharmacist), with an understanding of the nurse prescribing programme.

What are the training requirements for the new supervisor and assessor roles?

There are 5 strands to this transition and preparation as outlined below:

1) & 2) Current mentor to Practice Supervisors

Existing mentors who transition into the practice supervisor and practice assessor role do a short session on the changes with the new roles plus the assessment document. This will be face to face or online and designed to take half a day in a workshop or equivalent.

3) Students completing Practice Supervisor preparation

All students on NMC programmes will undertake preparation for the practice supervisor role as part of their pre-registration programme and therefore they will qualify ready to become practice supervisors. Some organisations then reinforce this with added preceptorship activities built in, to support this aspect of their development.

4) New practice supervisors for NMC registered staff

Staff who wish to become practice supervisors (and have not completed any prior mentor preparation) would participate in a short course or virtual preparation to explain the role and deliver the preparation to be a supervisor. These will be virtual or face to face. Practice Supervisor preparation covers the scope of the practice supervisor role, the programme assessment document and the relevant curricula and NMC standards

5) Nurses to Practice Assessor

For NMC registered staff who gain experience as a practice supervisor and then wish to take on the practice assessor role, there will be further professional development to scope the role and responsibilities and explore the support required for students during practice assessment. This can be a face to face session or virtual.

More information on these strands can be found as a summary slide at:

<https://myeweb.ac.uk/mye-sssa/>

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