

PROCEDURAL SKILLS: NURSING¹ AND MIDWIFERY PROGRAMMES

Guidelines for all pre-registration nursing and midwifery students and those supporting them in the practice setting²

Introduction

There are certain clinical skills which will be restricted for nursing students according to local practice learning partner policies. In all instances, students must seek verbal consent from patients prior to caring for them and prior to performing any nursing procedure (The Code NMC 2018).

This document applies to:

- i) Pre-registration Adult Nursing Students
- ii) Pre-registration Children's Nursing Students
- iii) Pre-registration Mental Health Nursing Students
- iv) Pre-registration Adult and Mental Health Nursing Students
- v) Pre-registration Children's and Mental Health Nursing Students
- vi) Pre-registration Midwifery Students
- vii) Trainee Nursing Associates (Foundation Degree)

This document presents

- key principles which are applied across all practice partner settings

Key Principles:

- 1) All students are required to have a current Fitness to Practise ID Badge, and wear this at all times on placement, showing this to the Practice Supervisor/ Practice Assessors.
- 2) Under no circumstances may students perform a nursing skill that is not approved by the practice placement partner policy, even if it is a requirement of their programme.
- 3) It is the responsibility of nursing students to check and practice according to:
 - (a) the local Policies/Guidelines covering their practice placement
 - (b) The Code (NMC 2018)

¹ This includes ALL programmes NMC Standards for Education and Training (2018) Part 2 Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment leading to professional registration

² This document replaces all Oxford Brookes University restricted clinical skills policies which precede it.

- 4) Students in practice must be supervised at all times; the supervision may be direct or indirect.
 - a) Direct Supervision requires that the practitioner supervising the student must remain in constant attendance with the student for the entire duration of the procedure/skill/competency.
 - b) Indirect Supervision requires that the practitioner supervising the student has assessed the students' capability for the procedure and level of risk and in their judgement the student is able to undertake the practice without them being in constant attendance however their support is available should it be necessary (e.g. the supervisor is on site in another room, contactable by telephone in the community)
- 5) Individual students have different levels of ability and competence. The practice supervisor responsible for student may make their own judgement whether or not to directly or indirectly supervise a student. This decision should be based on the individual student's current level of knowledge, skill and experience.
 - a) This **does not** apply where the Placement Area's policy specifically states that the student must be **directly supervised or is not allowed to undertake the specific procedure**
 - b) Even where this policy indicates that nursing students are allowed to undertake a skill, this policy should not over-ride the discretion of individual Practice Supervisors/Assessor who feels that a particular student may not be at a level of ability to perform a certain skill.
 - c) Similarly, individual students **should not perform any skill if they do not feel safe to do so.**
6. Prior to performing any clinical procedure, or skill, the student must be able to demonstrate and/or verbalise knowledge and understanding of the procedure/skill to be performed. If this is demonstrated, students may perform nursing skills. This knowledge and understanding can be taught in both practice or university. Therefore the PS/PA can provide the relevant teaching at the time the learning opportunity arises. This applies to all clinical placements **unless** the practice placement provider policy (for where the students are on placement) states otherwise.
7. The PS/PA and student are able to seek support in relation to clinical skills, requirements, supervision and policy in the first instance from Placement areas local policy documents and if there are concerns regarding the location/ interpretation further clarification may be sought from:
 - a. Placement managers/Learning Environment Leads
 - b. Link Lecturer (Nominated Practice Support Person)/ Academic Assessor
8. In general if a skill requires additional training following registration then it is not a skill a student nurse should be directly involved in³.

³ The September 2020 curriculum will have changes to the skills required for the qualifying Registered Nurse and students will need to rehearse and demonstrate competence in these skills, more information can be found [Here](#)