

1. Context

The NMC Standards to support learning and assessment in practice (SLAiP 2008) state that when a student has achieved the level of proficiency required for qualification (nursing) or progression to the next year (midwifery) that this decision is made by a Sign off Mentor.

Sign off Mentors are required for:

- Adult and Child Nursing programme final placement students
- All Midwifery students
- All Specialist Nursing programme leading to a recordable nursing qualifications
- Specialist Public Health Nurses
- Return To Practice programme Nursing and Midwifery Students

2. Current advice for mentors working to achieve Sign off Mentor status;

Following NMC guidance to become a Sign off Mentor, the qualified mentor is required to complete three supervised assessment of student’s progress.

“The purpose of supervised sign off is to enable the prospective sign-off mentor to experience and demonstrate the skills required to safely sign-off a student on an NMC approved programme with the support of an existing sign-off mentor” (NMC 2010).

However, the first two of these three assessments can now be simulated in a variety of ways including practice.

“Supervised sign off can take place in a variety of settings including the workplace, an assessed simulated environment, such as a skills laboratory, or a classroom. A range of methods may be used as long as these test the skills required to sign off students safely, for example, a three way discussion or role play, or the interactive use of electronic resources such as computer assisted learning packages, or video conferencing” (NMC 2010).

Please refer to additional guidance from your employer as appropriate.

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