

3 October 2024

Dear colleague,

We hope this finds you well as the new academic year kicks off. We're writing to update you on a few aspects of NMC education quality assurance and standards.

The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

QAA have published their first [guidance for education institutions](#), covering institutional and programme approvals, and modifications, following the sector events they held in September. They've published this alongside [responses to the feedback](#) that shaped the guidance.

QAA have also been confirming event dates for education institutions with the most urgent approval or major modification requests. Their focus has been on requested events that Mott MacDonald had provisionally agreed to, and those with programme start dates in January 2025. They are now working their way through the remainder of the events requested for activity later into 2025.

We are hosting an online event with QAA where we'll discuss what you can expect as we work together in this new partnership. We will hold the same session on two dates, please register below to join us:

13:00 – 14:00 Wednesday 30 October [register here](#)

10:00 – 11:00 Thursday 31 October [register here](#)

Mandatory exceptional reporting

We have now written to all approved education institutions (AEIs) delivering pre-registration programmes about the outcome of the mandatory exceptional report 2024. Thank you for your understanding and collaboration while we completed this work. Last week we provided an update on this to NMC Council which you can read [here](#) (p175). We will publish a report of this work which we'll also share with you in due course.

Extension to pre-registration programme standards transition period

We also wanted to inform you that we have extended the deadline for AEIs to make changes to pre-registration programmes in line with the updated standards that were agreed by Council in January 2023. The deadline has been extended by six months, to **31 July 2025**. This is due to the high volume of requests we have received. The extension will allow more time for the preparation of evidence and for programmes to progress through the approval process with QAA.

Monthly drop-in sessions

We're introducing monthly online drop-in sessions where you, your practice learning partners and students can talk to us about any queries related to NMC standards implementation or other education queries.

There is no agenda or formal presentation. Each session will be led by a Nurse Education Advisor, Midwifery Education Advisor, Standards Specialist and/or an advisor from our Employer Link Service and Quality Assurance team.

Sessions will run 12:30-13:30 on the first Wednesday of every month:

2024: 6 November, 4 December

2025: 8 January, 5 February, 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June

Please fill in this [short form](#) to receive the joining details.

Simulated practice learning evaluation

We also wanted to share that we've published [a new report](#) that evaluates the use of simulated practice learning (SPL) in pre-registration nursing programmes. It is based on the experience of 19 AEs who are approved to deliver up to 600 hours of SPL. We're grateful to those of you who were part of this evaluation.

Alongside rich insight from the AEs, the report offers feedback from students, people who use services and their carers, practice supervisors and assessors, practice learning partners and academic staff to assure holistic representation of the SPL experience. You can read more on [our website](#).

Practice learning review

Earlier this month, 450 nursing and midwifery professionals, students, and stakeholders attended a webinar about our practice learning research and next steps. You can watch the webinar [here](#).

Advance practice webinar

As part of our ongoing [advanced practice review](#), we're developing a set of regulatory principles which will include a definition of advanced practice that is clear to the public. To hear more about our progress and have your say on the draft principles and definition, please join one of our webinars:

13:00 on Thursday 17 October ([register here](#) – limited places remaining)

13:00 on Monday 21 October ([register here](#))

If you'd like to be kept up to date with our progress with advanced practice please sign up to our [community of interest](#).

Midwifery standards implementation supporting resource

Finally, to help embed the standards within maternity services, we've published a new resource [The role of the standards of proficiency for midwives](#). This has been developed for directors and heads of midwifery to use within their trust or health board. We'd be grateful if you can share it with your practice learning partners.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about any of these updates, please contact our QA team: QAteam@nmc-uk.org.

Best wishes,

The NMC QA Team