

Sign-off Mentor

**(The NMC Standards to support learning and assessment in practice
can be accessed from the main menu of the Placement Website)**

Learning outcomes – After accessing this presentation it is expected that you will be able to:

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- Outline the NMC requirements for sign-off mentor
- Consider whether you meet the criteria to become a sign-off mentor
- Discuss the types of evidence which could be used to assess the clinical proficiency of a student at the end of their programme
- Identify key personnel who are able to support the mentoring and assessment process

The NMC Standard

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- Developed to give better assurances to the NMC that students undertaking programmes have been supported and provided with appropriate supervision and assessment of competency by the practitioners with the necessary knowledge and competence
- Implemented for students who commenced programmes from 1 September 2007

Developmental Framework

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- Stage 1 = Registrants/Associate mentors
- Stage 2 = Mentors / Sign-off Mentors
- Stage 3 = Practice Teachers
- Stage 4 = Teachers

Assessment of competence

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- All students will be assessed during their programme by mentors prepared for the role
- Students can only be assessed for entry to the Register (at the end of their programme) by sign-off mentors or practice teachers
- For midwifery programmes all mentors must meet sign-off mentor requirements

Sign-off Mentor

Additional Requirements

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- Supervised on three occasions for signing off proficiency by an existing sign-off mentor
- Current clinical experience
- Demonstrate an understanding of the curriculum, NMC competencies and requirements
- Understand the responsibility and accountability of the role

Accountability

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- “Mentors, Practice Teachers and Teachers who sign off all or part of the programme leading to registration are **accountable** to the Council for their decision that the students are fit for practice and that they have the necessary knowledge, skills and competence to take on the role of the registered nurse”
- **Registration provides a licence to practise and is the prime means of protecting the public.**

NMC Requirements for the role of sign-off mentor

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- Time allocated to reflect, give feedback and keep records of student achievement during final placement where proficiency is signed off – **equivalent to one hour per week**
- The sign-off mentor must provide evidence that the student has met the required NMC competencies at the end of the programme - refer to CADs for all three years of training and the ROSE.
- The sign-off mentor must be on the same part or sub-part of the Register as that which the student is intending to enter.

Evidence of Clinical Competencies when assessing students at the end of the programme

- An ongoing achievement record
- Observation in Practice
- Simulation, testimonies, question and answer

Additional support for the role of sign-off mentor

- Self Assessment checklist
- Mentor updates
- Link Lecturers and LEMs
- Student support teams (University and Trusts)