Social Networking/Responsible Usage/NMC Advice

Social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter are a routine part of daily communication. So routine, that nurses and midwives may not realise how their activities online may breach the requirement to “uphold the reputation of the profession” as stated in the code.

Conduct online and conduct in the real world should be judged in the same way, and should be at a similar high standard. Nurses and midwives will put their registration at risk, and students could jeopardise their ability to join the register, if they:

- Share confidential information online.
- Post inappropriate comments about colleagues or patients.
- Use social networking sites to bully or intimidate colleagues.
- Pursue personal relationships with patients or service users.
- Distribute sexually explicit material.
- Use social networking sites in any way which is unlawful.

Read our practical guidance for students, nurses and midwives using social networking sites for more tips. This guidance is particularly useful for students who have recently qualified or those heading out to practice for the first time in September.

Link Lecturer Posters

As you know we had agreed to have a University of York laminated poster including photo and contact details of the Link Lecturer in every placement area. The reasons for this are:

- Many of our local practice providers have reconfigured. This has not only resulted in closures of practice areas but has also meant that we share more and more with other universities and their Link Lecturers.
- The National Student Survey (NSS) mentioned students’ perception of a low profile of lecturers in placement environments.
- Mentors also reflect the student view.

The posters are now laminated and ready to go and you should receive them from your Link Lecturer. Please display these on your student noticeboard.

Continuing Professional Development

The Department of Health Sciences at the University of York has a wide range of short courses and study days suitable for primary care, secondary care, mental healthcare, midwifery, public health and leadership skills development. Visit http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/cpd/#tab-2 to see what’s coming up and how to apply.

Student Achievements!

Jemma Pogson, a third year pre-registration Learning Disability nursing student has won the Outstanding Contribution to Placement Award at the 2013 Student Nursing Times Awards.

The awards are open to all nursing students across the UK and this generic award spans all fields of practice, across the whole of the UK and is an outstanding achievement.

Well done Jemma!
As you know, from October 2013 the Department of Health Science BSc (Hons) nursing students will be using their individual, online PebblePad e-portfolio to record their progress and achievements during their practice experience. Mentors, link lecturers and personal supervisors will contribute to the portfolio as part of the continuous assessment of practice, which is an integral part of our pre-registration nursing programme. We believe that the e-portfolio is a great tool to enhance learning and are really excited about the opportunities this will bring to work more closely together and create an even better practice learning experience.

There is a programme of training sessions / workshops for mentors to familiarise you with PebblePad prior to students commencing placement. These sessions are designed to give an in depth training on the e-portfolio and will supplement information given at Mentor Updates, LEM meetings, roadshows, flyers, mentor briefings, user manuals and user videos (available soon on the DoHS website).

The dates we have arranged for training session have been sent to your Learning Environment Manager and Practice Learning Facilitators and are available on: www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/practice-ed-support. You are encouraged to book a place but if you turn up on the day you will be accommodated if space allows.

What is a placement experience evaluation?
It can be described as a systematic approach, used in partnership with placements and the Universities, that identifies a criteria of professional standards which the both the Organisation and University are required to meet. It can assist in gaining insight into improving the learning experience.

Why use evaluations?
Healthcare professional pre-registration students spend 50% of their time in practice settings so it is vital this aspect of the programme is of the highest possible standard to support the learning taking place at the University. It is also a requirement to ensure that professional education standards are being met in order for the placement to be utilised. One way in which students can ensure that their point of view is recognised by the University, Placement, and those associated with practice experiences, is to provide an objective constructive evaluation of their learning experiences.

How can students evaluate?
Students can evaluate their experiences through the PPQA tool – www.healthcareplacements.co.uk (optional) where placement staff will be able to observe the evaluations instantly or through the University mechanisms (mandatory). It is essential that students use this opportunity to have their say to maintain and improve the quality of placements as much as possible.

On either evaluation tool there are a list of statements which the student needs to address but there is also an opportunity to write comments. Comments can provide an opportunity for placements to improve and assist with the development of the learning experiences; they support the mentors in changing their practice or review the learning environment. They are also an opportunity to thank the staff for their support in developing the students’ skills, knowledge and attitudes.

When completing the evaluation it is useful to both organisations that comments are appropriate to the learning experience. If students have concerns over any issues whilst on placement they should be addressed to either their mentor or link lecturer. However by completing the evaluation students can also use this opportunity to offer an insight into how the learning experiences could develop. Please remember issues outside of the placements remit such as location and travel requirements are not always appropriate for development of a placement as neither the Organisation nor the University can remove the placement from its locality!

Who sees these evaluations?
All evaluations are reviewed by the University, Link Lecturers and Placement Facilitators in order to support the development of learning opportunities as part of the educational audit which takes place in order to ensure the placement is accessed by healthcare professional students. If there are any comments which the reviewers need clarification the student will be contacted to discuss the comments. Practice experience staff also have access to reply against any comments.

Please contact your personal supervisor or Student Information Services for further information on dohs-student-services-group@york.ac.uk. (Please note new email!)