



Practice Education Newsletter - Winter 2020

Enquiring minds, inspirational teaching and pioneering research

Hello and welcome to our new Practice Newsletter!

Long before my appointment to the Department of Health Sciences, a regular practice newsletter was sent out to placement areas which was discontinued. As a Practice Learning Team, and listening to feedback from our practice partners, we have decided to revamp the newsletter and bring it back bi-annually (Winter and Summer edition). With Covid-19, change is occurring even more rapidly than usual and it is important that we continue to work together and build on the already fantastic practice relationships that we have.

This newsletter has been designed alongside consultation and feedback from our practice partners, as we want to make the information provided as useful to you as possible.

This Winter Practice Newsletter will cover the following:

- Covid-19 and the University placement circuit
- Training opportunities and updates
- Feedback from you

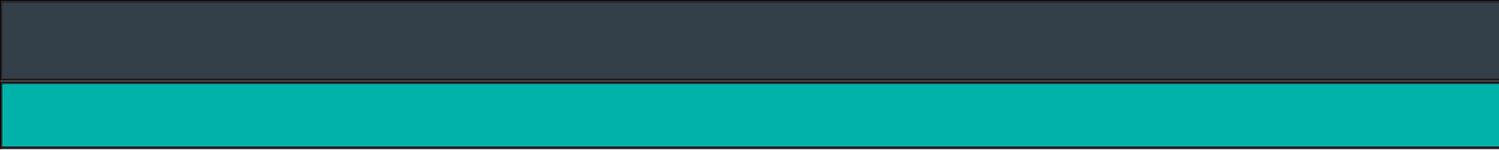


The new 'C Word'

Covid-19 has affected so much of our daily lives, particularly for those working in healthcare. Healthcare professionals are under a huge amount of pressure at the moment and the need for qualified staff is evident. The BSc September 2017 student nurses and Mid 17 cohort of student midwives have recently qualified and started their careers. Many of these students had gained experience of working without supernumerary status, supporting the workforce under the NMC Emergency Standards.

The Practice Learning Team for the University of York were really keen to get an insight into the experiences of the students working under the HEE NMC placements, affecting second and third year students, which started in April this year.

The survey and practice evaluations we gathered provided us with consistent feedback and points to learn from. Overall, there were lessons to be learned through the timeliness and organisation of the practice areas students were placed in and confusion over the emergency roles that were introduced, which was mostly due to the rapid rate of change. Additionally Private, Independent and Voluntary Organisations were missed from the opportunity to support these students and their contributions



to service user care. However, students overwhelmingly had a welcoming and rewarding experience out in practice and many have secured jobs in the areas they were placed, which is excellent. From the University, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all of your support during this, and what continues to be, an extremely difficult time.

Supporting our students in practice, using more creative ways to support learning, continues to be a challenge and again we would like to thank you for your continued support to our students. Please remember that we are here, alongside Practice Education Teams (where available in your area) to support you and our students in practice. You can contact us - Your University Practice Learning Team by emailing **dohs-pll@york.ac.uk**.

Training opportunities and updates

Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor training and updates

Since the Spring/ Summer last year we have been rolling out information to staff in line with the NMC Future Nurse Standards (2018), particularly raising awareness of the new Standards for Student Support and Assessment (SSSA). This has included the new roles in practice of Practice Assessor and Practice Supervisor.

We are part of a major Regional collaboration of 33 Universities and thousands of Healthcare Partners: the Midlands, Yorkshire, North East and East of England Practice Learning Group (MYNEPLG), together we have developed one shared package of training and resources, to provide consistent support for the new SSSA.

For nurses, the training for 'Mentor to Practice Assessor transition training' and 'Practice Supervisor training' can now be accessed via our website: <https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/practice-ed-support/nursingpracticesupport/> and also some learning hubs via the Trusts. For more information please contact your Practice Education Teams or for Private, Independent and Voluntary Organisations, please contact **dohs-pll@york.ac.uk**.

For Practice Supervisors wanting to upskill to the role of Practice Assessor, Preparation has been developed by the MYNEPLG. We aim to have this available to staff soon and information about this course will be disseminated shortly! Please note that Practice Supervisors will need to have submitted the episode of care activity from the PS workbook (to Practice Education Teams in Trusts and to dohs-pll@york.ac.uk for PIVOs), and have gained sufficient experience of supervising students in practice, before being accepted onto the Practice Assessor training.

A plan for annual updates for Practice Assessors is also under development with our placement stakeholders and more information on this will be provided as these become available.

The new midwifery programme, incorporating the SSSA, has been implemented this year following the NMC Emergency Standards. The midwifery Practice Supervisor and Mentor to Practice Assessor training is currently being finalised and should be available for staff to access soon. Information will be disseminated to staff as soon as this is available.

Service User and Carer Involvement (SUCI) group

At the University of York, we are committed to the involvement of service users and carers in all of our healthcare programmes. The Service User and Carer (SUCI) Forum in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of York is for people who use health and social care services who wish to influence and be involved with the education of health professionals including nurses, midwives and nursing associates.

The SUCI Forum meets as a group twice a year and members have the opportunity to be involved with a diverse range of additional activities. Our next SUCI Forum is on the 8th December via Zoom and free tickets are available on Eventbrite via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/126039127423>

If you are aware of any service users and/or carers who you think may be interested, we would really appreciate their involvement.

Raising concerns in practice

We have recently updated our student 'Raising Concerns in Practice' webpages and policy. These web pages provide the information around support for students escalating a concern that they have witnessed or experienced in practice. This information is also available for staff to view, should they require further information. These policies can be accessed via: <https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/practice-ed-support/practice-experience/practice-concerns/>

Feedback and thank you

Once again, from all of the team in the Department of Health Sciences, we would like to offer a sincere thank you for all of your dedication and hard work in supporting our students out in practice.

As a practice learning team at the University of York, we really want to ensure that the newsletters we send out are helpful to those out in practice. If you have any feedback on the newsletters or would like to be featured, this could include a new and creative way your team has come up with for supporting students, we would love to hear from you! Please email me on emily.hemmings@york.ac.uk to discuss.

From all of us at the University of York, we hope you stay safe and are able to get some rest over the festive period.



**Midlands, Yorkshire, North East
+ East Practice Learning Group**

