

NMC Circular 14/2006
SAT/gl
June 2006

Dear Colleague

Revision to NMC Circular 5/2005, endorsement of NMC programmes approved in the UK for delivery in specified locations outside the UK.

NMC Circular 5/2005 is withdrawn.

NMC Circular 14/2006 sets out the procedures that the NMC will apply when considering approved programmes to be delivered in specified locations outside of the UK. The procedure, known as endorsement, is set out in Annexe 1 of this Circular. This applies to any NMC approved programme leading to registration or recording in the register and is primarily intended to facilitate the delivery of programmes in the offshore islands of the British Isles and for British Forces Health Services.

Endorsement ensures that the programme meets required standards, is delivered by NMC registrants within a context of UK healthcare, and that appropriately prepared NMC registrants carry out supervision and assessment in practice.

Endorsement established under the Nursing and Midwifery Order (2001), permits the NMC to assess training outside the United Kingdom (UK) as contributing towards the standards of proficiency for admission to the register (Article 13(2)(b) and to approve courses of training run outside of the UK (Article 15 (7)).

Circular 14/2006 (Annexe 1) retains the key principles of Circular 5/2005 but specifically identifies information needed to determine whether endorsement should proceed (Annexe 2).

Any queries relating to this NMC Circular should be addressed to Garth Long, Education Adviser, on 020 7333 6631, or to garth.long@nmc-uk.org.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Thewlis
Chief Executive and Registrar

This Circular replaces NMC Circular 5/2005

The procedure for endorsing NMC programmes approved in the UK for delivery in specified locations outside the UK.

Introduction

- 1 The following procedure acknowledges the issues of fitness for practice and the local context of fitness for purpose, in enabling programmes approved within the UK to be delivered outside the UK through a process called *endorsement*. The NMC QA Framework must be applied in full in approval, modification and monitoring of the programme (QA Factsheet A/2005UK).
- 2 The term *endorsement* refers to the approval of a programme in the UK and its delivery in a specific location outside the UK approved by the NMC. This refers to programmes leading to either registration or to recording on the register approved by the NMC for delivery by an NMC approved institution. Programmes are monitored using UK wide NMC programme-monitoring arrangements.
- 3 There is no facility for franchising which could allow another institution to deliver the programme on behalf of the NMC approved institution. The approved institution remains fully responsible for delivering the programme both within the UK and in the approved location outside of the UK. Approved NMC teachers for the programme must be either employed by the programme provider or formally accredited by the programme provider for the explicit purpose of delivering the programme.
- 4 The process of *endorsement* does not allow a programme to be approved in the UK for sole delivery outside of the UK. Endorsement is intended to apply to a programme being delivered in the UK, which may also be delivered outside of the UK using comparable programme arrangements.
- 5 Should a request be received for a midwifery programme approved in the UK for delivery in specified locations outside the UK, then the QA Committee would firstly bring the application to the attention of the Midwifery Committee for their consideration before considering it further.

Fitness for practice and purpose

Fitness for practice

- 6 The NMC makes no distinction between the programme regulatory requirements to be applied either within or outside the UK; they all remain the same and seek to ensure fitness for practice and public protection.

Fitness for purpose

- 7 Commissioners of any programme approved by the NMC may wish to discuss with the education provider issues relating to fitness for purpose and its delivery within a local/national context. Both fitness for practice and purpose is monitored through the NMC QA Framework for programme monitoring.

Enabling delivery of a programme outside the UK.

- 8 Where a programme is approved in the UK with the intention of it being offered in another specified location outside the UK, then the following applies:

Endorsement

- 8.1 The commissioner and/or education provider will complete a proforma (Annexe 2). The NMC QA Committee will then determine whether the location specified outside the UK meets the criteria to be considered for endorsement.
- 8.2 If the QA Committee gives the authority to proceed with detailed planning, the education provider and commissioner then enter into a dialogue with the NMC or its agents to arrange for an endorsement event to be held.
- 8.3 Where the approved programme is already offered in the UK and is to be offered additionally in a specified location outside the UK, the following is to be considered as part of endorsement process (see Annexe 2):
- infrastructure to deliver a programme in specific country/location, including academic and practice arrangements;
 - partnership arrangements;
 - policy context, country/location specific requirements; and
 - quality assurance processes

In addition to this, the following assurances will be required:

- that programmes are delivered by NMC registrants within a context of UK health care, in an environment where the supervision and assessment of students in practice is undertaken by appropriately prepared NMC registrants, which meets NMC standards.
- 8.4 Statement(s) of Compliance will be required which confirm that resources are in place currently to support the wider delivery of the programme (QA Factsheet F/2004ENG).
- 8.5 Where the nature of the proposal is complex, or where a new programme is being proposed that will involve the delivery of the programme in the UK and outside of the UK, then a full approval of the programme will be required. In which case the NMC's arrangements for programme approval are to be followed in full.

- 8.6 The respective Council's Officers, Agents and/or NMC Visitor will be involved with the education provider and commissioner in either approval and/or endorsement. They will provide reports to the NMC confirming the outcome of the activity, including the meeting of any conditions. The outcome will require to be approved by the NMC QA Committee following which the NMC will confirm the outcome to the education provider, commissioner and, where appropriate, the NMC's agents
- 8.7 Programme approval or endorsement will be recorded on the NMC database, identifying the specific locations outside the UK where the programme may be delivered.

Monitoring

- 8.8 Monitoring activity will be co-ordinated and led by the NMC or its agent, depending on the country in which the NMC approved institution responsible for the programme is located.
- 8.9 Monitoring will ensure that cross-country/location issues are appropriately identified, acted upon and outcomes recorded. This will result in a single monitoring report being submitted relating to the approved education provider's ability to offer the programme across all specified locations.
- 8.10 Monitoring will incorporate the findings from external sources, e.g. external examiners, the Quality Assurance Agency, Health Commission, etc.

For NMC use

Checklist for granting permission to move forward to endorsement for NMC programmes approved in the UK for delivery in specified locations outside the UK.

Evidence that currently programme:	YES	NO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• is in approval		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• is meeting NMC requirements (reports attached)		
Application indicates potential to deliver in new setting including:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• meeting requirements of original programme approval		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• having in place committed partnerships;		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivering within context of UK health care;		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• using programme providers quality assurance processes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• meeting NMC requirements of QA Factsheet C in relation to practice learning		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• programme delivery by NMC registrants who are either employees of the programme provider or formally accredited by the programme provider for the explicit purpose of delivering the programme		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensuring supervision and assessment of students in practice is undertaken by appropriately prepared NMC registrants who meet NMC mentor standards		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• external scrutiny through QA processes and external examination. (reports attached)		

Permission to proceed to endorsement:

Granted/Rejected

Comments:

Signed on behalf of:

Chair of NMC QA Committee

Date

Noted in HEI file

Date

Proforma request for programme endorsement to enable NMC programmes approved in the UK to be delivered in a specified location outside the UK.

Please provide the following information:

CURRENT PROGRAMME

1 Name of NMC approved institution and that making the academic award (if different)

Please state the name of the approved institution where the programme is currently approved or is intended to be approved. Where the academic award is not given by the approved institution please state the awarding university. Please note that franchising of programmes from an NMC approved institution within the UK to an education provider outside of the UK will not be considered

2 Programme to be endorsed

Enter date and period of approval. Enter title of the NMC approved programme requiring endorsement; please enter the NMC recognised title rather than the title of the University award.

3 Date approved and period of approval (if appropriate)

Please note that the period for which the original programme was approved will not be extended through the process of endorsement

3.1 Outstanding issues linked to conditions of original approval

Please give details of any issues were addressed as meeting the conditions for approval that could now have implications for endorsement. (Please attach a copy of the conditions where appropriate)

4 Current Commissioners (purchaser)

Please identify all current commissioners/ purchasers of the approved programme

5 Current practice locations

Please list all the major placement providers e.g. hospitals/trusts, who provide placements of four or more weeks duration. For the independent sector these may be identified e.g. as x number of nursing homes, etc.

6 Outcomes of monitoring of current programme

6.1 Internal

Please identify any concerns arising from the internal monitoring of the approved programme and how these have been addressed.

6.2 External

Please state whether the current programme has been subject to NMC or any other external monitoring. Please identify any concerns arising from the internal monitoring and how this was addressed. This to include any concerns raised by external examiners for this approved programme.

(Please attach a copy of the latest external examiners' report and any linked action plan. Where relevant, please also attach the most recent NMC monitoring report for the programme plus reports provided by any other agency (e.g. QAA/ Health Care Commission) which impact directly on the programme).

ENDORSEMENT SPECIFIC DATA IDENTIFYING THE LIKELY DIFFERENCES FROM THE CURRENTLY APPROVED PROGRAMME.

7 Locations outside the UK for intended delivery:

Please identify the country and location at which it is intended to deliver the programme.

8 Prospective additional commissioners/purchasers of the programme:

Please list each respective commissioner/ purchaser who has agreed in principle to purchase the programme should endorsement be successful.

9 Partners (making major contribution to programme delivery):

9.1 Partnership

Please indicate the anticipated nature of partnerships and commitment in both the support of the programme and in the provision of resources.

9.2 Teachers

Please confirm that the NMC approved teachers delivering the programme outside of the UK:

- are **either** employees of the programme provider **or** formally accredited by the programme provider for the explicit purpose of delivering the programme;
- they meet NMC requirements by being NMC registrants with due regard to the programme or field of practice; and
- hold a recordable teaching qualification (or equivalent).

Please identify the amount of teaching to be delivered at the approved institution and that to be delivered outside of the UK, identifying the numbers of NMC approved teachers involved and support and monitoring arrangements to be used.

9.3 Mentors

Please confirm that mentors will be NMC registrants who meet the NMC Standards for supporting learning and assessment in practice. Please identify where students from other NMC approved institutions are already gaining experience in the areas intended for student placement outside of the UK and, if so, how arrangements for the preparation of mentors and auditing of placements may be undertaken jointly.

10 Cohort size/ frequency of intakes

Please identify current student numbers together with the proposed additional numbers to be recruited following endorsement, this to include the proposed number of intakes per year.

11 Delivering within context of UK health care

As a UK regulator the NMC must ensure that students exiting the endorsed programme will be able to practice safely and effectively within the UK. Whilst it is acknowledged that some additional local requirements may need to be included in the programme delivered outside of the UK, evidence is required that the NMC approved curriculum will be the same wherever it is being delivered. This must be delivered within the context of UK healthcare.

12 Quality assurance processes

Please demonstrate how the QA arrangements associated with the delivery of the programme outside of the UK will interface with the QA processes of the approved institution, taking account of the local context. Please also indicate the way in which the programme delivered outside of the UK will be directly monitored by the approved institution.

CONFIRMATION

It is confirmed that the programme will be delivered by NMC registrants within a context of UK health care, in an environment where the supervision and assessment of students in practice is undertaken by appropriately prepared NMC registrants, which meets NMC standards.

Signed on behalf of the:

Commissioner(s)

Date

NMC approved institution

Date

Partner(s) in new intended location(s)

Date
