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Standards of educational preparation for prescribing from the Nurse Prescribers Formulary for Community Practitioners for nurses without a specialist practitioner qualification - introducing code V150

Summary

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) exists to protect the public. It does this by 'establish(ing) from time to time standards of education, training, conduct and performance for nurses and midwives to ensure the maintenance of those standards' (*The Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001*).

This circular informs higher education institutions (HEIs), of a change to the code for notifying the NMC about nurses who have completed the standards of educational preparation for prescribing from the Nurse Prescribers Formulary for Community Practitioners for nurses who do not hold the specialist practitioner qualification. The new code is V150.

This circular replaces NMC circular 38/2007 with immediate effect. It should be read in conjunction with *Standards of proficiency for nurse and midwife prescribers* (NMC 2006).

The standards are attached at Annexe 1 and will remain unchanged for the present. A full review of the standards will occur at a later date.

Background

Health care policy drivers in all four UK countries have indicated a shift in patient care from secondary care settings to primary care settings. Access to medicines at point of care is essential and nurses working in the community are well placed to provide these medicines to their patients. However they may not need to prescribe from the whole British National Formulary.

In order to improve patients' access to medicines, the NMC has set standards for educational preparation for nurses who do not hold a specialist practice qualification. This will enable nurses to prescribe from the Nurse Prescribers Formulary for Community Practitioners. The standards are presented at annexe 1. This should be taught alongside existing prescribing courses V100 and V300 where possible, to facilitate shared learning and should be validated as a separate programme.

On successful completion of the course, nurses should be uploaded with the code **V150**. This will denote that they are entitled to prescribe from the Nurse Prescribers Formulary for Community Practitioners and have met the competencies to do so.

Action Required

- Approved HEI's will be expected to validate educational preparation as outlined in annexe 1 of this circular.
- On successful completion of the course nurses should be uploaded with the code **V150**

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- This circular may be reproduced by all to whom it is addressed.
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This circular has been issued by

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