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Using accreditation of prior learning (APL) in existing pre-registration nursing, specialist community public health nursing programmes, and in other programmes where APL is permitted

Summary

- This circular provides new guidance and advice for using accreditation of prior learning (APL) in existing programmes approved under the *Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing education (2004)*, the *Standards for specialist community public health nursing (2004)* and for other programmes where APL is permitted within respective standards. The new guidance and advice is set out in annexe 1 of this document.
- To reflect current practice the term accreditation of prior learning (APL) has been used in the guidance and advice rather than accreditation of prior (experiential) learning (AP(E)L).
- This new guidance and advice is for approved education institutions (AEIs) who currently provide NMC approved programmes.

Background

- In developing and consulting on new *Standards for pre-registration nursing education (2010)*, previous guidance and advice relating to the application of accreditation of prior (experiential) learning was reviewed and new guidance and advice developed.
- This new guidance and advice will now, with immediate effect, apply to existing programmes approved under the *Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing education (2004)*, *Standards for specialist community public health nursing (2004)* and to other programmes where APL is permitted within respective standards.
- This guidance and advice replaces NMC *Factsheet I/2004UK - Guidelines and Principles for the use of Accreditation of Prior (Experiential) Learning (AP(E)L) in the Approval and Monitoring of NMC Approved Programmes* (updated October 2008) and the NMC advice sheet: *Accreditation of Prior and Experiential Learning (APEL) and Credit Accumulation Transfer Schemes (CATS)* previously available on the NMC website.

Annexe 1

- The annexe attached to this circular sets out new guidance and advice for the accreditation of prior learning (APL) for programmes currently approved under the

Standards of proficiency for pre-registration nursing education (2004), the Standards for specialist community public health nursing (2004) and in relation to other NMC programme standards where APL is permitted.

- The new guidance and advice should be read in conjunction with the respective standards documents identified above.

This circular may be reproduced by all to whom it is addressed.

This circular has been issued by

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