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Status Information

Entry to Specialist Community Public Health Nursing (SCPHN) programmes where registration as a nurse or midwife is pending.

Summary

- This circular sets out criteria to be applied when an applicant intends to commence a SCPHN programme where they do not have confirmation of NMC registration as a nurse or midwife.
- The criteria will facilitate entry to a SCPHN programme when a student commences immediately after completing a pre-registration nursing or midwifery programme
- This circular should be read in conjunction with the Standards for specialist community public health nursing (NMC 2004)

Criteria and advice

The Standards for specialist community public health nursing (SCPHN) assume that anyone commencing a SCPHN programme normally does so as a registered nurse or midwife. Page 10 of the Standards says 'SCPHN programmes are developed from the premise that students are being prepared to enter a practice based profession at a level beyond initial registration'.

Where a nurse or midwife has not yet received confirmation of registration from the NMC, the SCPHN programme provider in the approved education institution (AEI) must have evidence prior to them starting the programme that the

- student has successfully completed their pre-registration nursing or midwifery programme
- student has made an application for NMC registration.

The AEI can email heiinfo@nmc-uk.org if the student needs to be registered as a nurse or midwife urgently before starting the SCPHN programme.

The AEIs should ensure the student notifies them as soon as NMC registration is confirmed. If the student has not received registration within two months, the student should normally be withdrawn from the programme.

Where the student needs to access practice learning opportunities prior to being registered with the NMC, any risks associated with not being registered need to be

addressed by the AEI or placement provider to ensure users and carers are adequately protected.

AEIs who conduct pre-registration nursing and/or midwifery programmes and who intend for graduates to then access a SCPHN programme, will want to ensure that the scheduling of assessment boards, the uploading of completion data, and the forwarding of signed declarations of good health and good character creates no undue delay in the NMC application process.

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This circular has been issued by

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