

## **Council meeting: 25 March 2020**

### Questions submitted by observers

#### **Temporary register (general)**

**Q: You say you haven't contacted those with 'known health conditions', what does this mean?**

**A:** In light of recent government advice, we didn't contact people who we understand to have health conditions to invite them to join the temporary register. We identified these people using the data they provided at the time they left the register. These people are still able to join the Covid-19 temporary register if they are in an eligible group. If you have been contacted or are looking to join the temporary register and you have a health condition, we would encourage you to consider the most recent government guidance on Covid-19 before making your decision.

**Q: How is the NMC protecting the data of those applying to join the Covid-19 temporary register?**

**A:** All those applying to join the temporary register receive details about how we will use their data in line with GDPR and our privacy policy.

**Q: If I am removed from the register, will information about it be made public?**

**A:** If you are removed from the Covid-19 temporary register, your name will no longer appear on it. We may tell employers and other relevant health and social care providers that you have been removed from the temporary register and the reasons why. We will also inform those who may have been directly involved or impacted, including temporary registrants, employers and members of the public. Removal decisions will not be published on the NMC website.

**Q: 'The Registrar may register all of the persons comprising a specified group of persons without first identifying each person in the group' - does that mean all people in a specified group will get registered without being asked?**

**A:** No one will be registered without specifically opting in, either by responding to an email invite from the NMC or using the opt-in form on our website. Those on the temporary register are able to contact us to ask to be removed at any time. Read more in our [temporary registration policy](#).

**Q: What is meant by 'specified group'?**

**A:** We have [identified groups of potential registrants](#) who are fit, proper and suitably experienced for temporary registration during this Covid-19 emergency. So far we have identified a number of these groups.

#### **Students (general)**

**Q: If I am on an extended clinical placement and remunerated, am I still a student?**

**A:** Yes. Your education institution will continue to support you while you are studying.

**Q: What happens if I do something wrong while I am on an extended clinical placement? Will I still be able to join the permanent register at a later date?**

**A:** This will be addressed with you through the normal processes at your education institution, and will only impact on your application for registration if you are considered not fit to practise or do not successfully meet the outcomes of the programme.

**Q: If I choose to take up an extended clinical placement and become unwell, will I get sick pay?**

**A:** Information related to remuneration is available from the Department of Health (and Social Care) in your respective country.

**Q: I am unable to continue on my clinical placement, which means it is going to take additional time for me to complete the programme. Will my fees be automatically covered for the extended period or will I be required to pay fees for another term?**

**A:** Your education institution will be able to advise you whether there is any impact to your fees if your course is going to take longer to complete.

**Q: Where will my clinical placement be?**

**A:** Your education institution will be able to provide you with information about your placement/s.

**Q: Will I be required to continue documenting evidence for assessment in student practice documents as per our usual assessment preparation?**

**A:** Supervisors will continue to document evidence in the practice assessment document during this period.

**Q: If I want to leave my clinical placement after I have already started, what should I do?**

**A:** If you have any concerns about working in your allocated placement, you will need to discuss this with your education institution.

**Q: How will this change affect my student finance?**

**A:** Your education institution will be able to advise you whether there is any impact to your fees if you have to defer or if your course is going to take longer to complete.

**Q: Will I have employment rights if I take up an extended clinical placement?**

**A:** You will be undertaking your extended clinical placement as a student, but if you are remunerated during your placement by an employer they will be able to confirm your employment status.

**Q: If I have failed practice assessments, will I still be allowed to choose to take up an extended clinical placement?**

**A:** This will be up to your education institution to decide whether you are able to go on an extended placement or need to complete your outstanding assessments first.

**Q: What will happen to first and second year students with regards to progression?**

**A:** Your education institution will be able to advise you about progression points and any changes that might be made to support this.

**Q: Can I go on an extended placement part-time?**

**A:** If you are a full-time student then your practice learning will be full-time. Please speak with your education institution about this if you are unsure.

**Q: If I opt to undertake an extended placement, what impact will this have on the completion of my dissertation?**

**A:** Your education institution will be able to advise you on the requirements and any changes that might impact on your dissertation.

**Q: Will second year students who are on placement under the emergency standards of 'protected learning time' be remunerated in the same way as the final year students are?**

**A:** Information related to remuneration is available from the Department of Health (and Social Care) in your respective country.

**Q: Given the blanket introduction of the Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment, can the same Academic Assessor be used for progression in consecutive parts of the programme?**

**A:** This standard has not been changed and so a different academic assessor will need to be in place in consecutive parts of the programme.

**Q. If a student suspends studies to take a contract of employment working as a temporary registrant, could this student receive recognition of prior experiential learning (RPL) against programme learning outcomes when they return to their studies?**

**A:** No decision has been made about inviting nursing students to join the Covid-19 temporary register so this is not an option for any student at present. If a student leaves their programme to work as a non-registered health care worker, any RPL will depend on their AEI's RPL process. Institutions would need to robustly ensure that students have appropriately met their learning outcomes, and had their competencies signed off during this period. If not then students would need to return to complete their studies.

**Q: Do education institutions need to adopt the emergency programme standards?**

**A:** Our [emergency standards](#) are intended to be facilitative and not directive. These standards do not require AEIs or individual students to change their current programmes, but provide additional flexibility for AEIs so that they can facilitate student learning and support the workforce during this emergency period. These standards are temporary and will no longer apply after the emergency period.

**Students (temporary register)**

**Q: If student nurses are invited to join the temporary register, and I choose to do so, am I still a student?**

**A:** No decision has been made about inviting nursing students to join the Covid-19 temporary register so this is not an option for any student at present. If this option is allowed in future, you would join as a registered nurse with conditions of practice for the emergency period and would not be a student. At the end of the emergency your temporary registration would end and you would become a nursing student again.

**Q: 'AEIs will be asked for names of potential students' – can you envisage any GDPR issues with this? How do AEIs mitigate against this?**

**A:** The Coronavirus Act 2020 gives us an express new power to require the provision of information for the purposes of identifying individuals in any specified group of temporary registrants so we will use this power for any future groups of potential registrants if necessary. No decision has been made about inviting nursing students to join the Covid-19 temporary register but if this decision is made, then we will use this statutory power to ask AEIs for their names and contact details to enable us to invite them to opt in and the AEIs will be under a duty to provide them so there will not be any GDPR issues.

**Other**

**Q: Are there CMA (Consumer Marketing Authority) implications in adopting the Emerging Programme Standards?**

**A:** Our [emergency standards](#) are intended to be facilitative and not directive. They do not require AEIs or individual students to change their current programmes but provide additional flexibility for AEIs so that they can facilitate student learning and support the workforce during this emergency period. Any CMA implications are a matter for the AEIs and the CMA.