

SCPHN and SPQ webinar questions/FAQs

1. Implementation timeline for new post registration standards

What is the timeline for implementation of the new SCPHN and community nursing SPQ standards?

The NMC Council approved the new post registration standards at our open meeting in May 2022 and we published the new standards in July 2022, meaning that universities and partners can now seek [approval of new programmes](#) in line with our new post registration standards beginning May 2023.

2. Prescribing as optional

Will I have to do prescribing to complete a community nursing SPQ or become registered as a SCPHN?

A Prescribing qualification is optional for both SCPHN and community nursing SPQ. Its best to check with the university running the programme if they have included prescribing and if it is integrated into the SCPHN and/or community nursing SPQ programme. Where programmes offer students admission to an NMC approved independent/supplementary prescribing programme(V300) it will be mapped to the [RPS Competency Framework for all Prescribers](#).

3. Practice assessment document

Is there a Practice Assessment Document (PAD) for the SCPHN and community nursing SPQ?

There are some regional working groups developing a common PAD's for SCPHN and community nursing SPQ. Individual universities may choose to adopt the PAD for new programmes. We recognise the value of regional and local collaboration for student learning using tools such as the PAD as they open up new opportunities for shared approaches to learning and assessment. It's not within our regulatory remit to develop the practice assessment document, but we could facilitate introductions and conversations on pan-assessment initiatives with interested universities and practice placement partners.

4. Existing SCPHN and community nursing SPQ professionals and revalidation

What do the new standards mean for those already with a community nursing SPQ or who are registered as a SCPHN?

How will the new standards affect professionals who currently have a community SPQ or a SCPHN qualification?

Professionals who already have one of these qualifications will retain them as they are currently annotated to their registration. Learning more about the proposed new standards will enable you to be able to supervise, support and assess post-registration SCPHN and community nursing students learning.

Those who have a community nursing SPQ annotation or are registered as SCPHN can use the new standards of proficiency alongside the Code as a key resource when planning for revalidation. They can be used to identify any gaps in a professional's knowledge or skills in relation to scope of practice and in planning CPD. We have a dedicated [micro site for revalidation](#). Individuals can use the new standards of proficiency for SCPHN and community nursing SPQs to identify new areas for reflective learning and continuous professional development.

Standards for Community Public Health Nurses (SCPHN)

5. Additional field of SCPHN

I am SCPHN HV and would like to do a school nurse qualification, can I get recognition for prior learning?

Yes, recognition of prior learning is possible. For further information see [Standards for post registration programmes leading to SPQ and SCPHN](#). Universities manage processes for recognition of prior learning.

Can I add an additional SCPHN field of practice to my NMC registration?

SCPHN can undertake further education and training to practise in a different field. This qualification would not be shown on the register. This is because having more than one field of practice on the register would not add to public protection as it would not show which field a SCPHN was practising in at any given time. For more information see our web pages on [SCPHN registration](#).

6. The SCPHN (Public Health Nurse)

I am a registered nurse working in research on the pandemic. Can I undertake a programme to be a SCPHN public health nurse (PHN)

Yes, SCPHN public health nurses (PHN) are specialists in public health who do not have a predetermined field of SCPHN practice. The SCPHN (PHN) can be applied to roles across a range of sectors and settings, including where nurses give public health advice and support to voluntary or third sector organisations within the wider community.

Do I need to do a post registration qualification to get a job in public health or community services?

No, but having these qualifications will support your learning and development. These post registration qualifications are optional. These regulatory standards clearly state the knowledge and skills to provide safe and effective care in community nursing and public health services. They enable registered nurses and midwives to register the community specialist practice qualification and for SCPHN to register and use the protected titles of SCPHN HV, SCPHN SN, SCPHN OHN and SCPHN PHN.

Community nursing Specialist Practice Qualification (SPQ)

Programme standards

1. Can SCPHN and SPQ students be taught together?

When universities and their practice placement partners design and develop their curricula they will consider where shared learning opportunities can take place. For example, spheres A and B in SCPHN and SPQ platforms 1 and 2 enable programme providers the opportunity for shared learning.

Our [post- registration standards](#) are written to give approved education institutions (AEIs) and practice learning partners the flexibility to develop creative approaches to education. Our [Part 1 standards framework for nursing and midwifery education](#) is written to give approved education institutions and practice learning partners the flexibility to work collaboratively to develop creative approaches to education. They also at the same time, allow institutions to still be accountable for the local delivery and management of approved programmes in line with our standards.

2. Do professionals applying to complete the SPQ in community children's nursing have to a registered nurse in the field of children's nursing?

There are entry requirements for someone to be considered for a place on a NMC approved SPQ programme.

It is for the university together with their practice placement partners to make sure a NMC registered nurse has the relevant professional experience, is capable of safe and effective practice needed to become a community nurse with a SPQ.

An AEI and their practice placement partners will take into account formal learning and experience (RPL) that can be mapped to the programme learning outcomes and standards of proficiency for the applicant's intended field of community nursing SPQ practice e.g. community children's nursing

3. Do you expect providers to be offering RPL to students wishing to apply for the community nursing SPQ courses?

Yes. Our [Standards for post-registration programmes](#) state the following, AEIs together with learning practice partners, must:

1.6. consider recognition of prior learning that is capable of being mapped to the:

1.6.2. programme learning outcomes and standards of proficiency for the applicant's intended field of community nursing SPQ practice or in other specified field(s) for the community nursing SPQ in health and social care practice

4. Will AEs have to have community nursing SPQ holders in each field e.g. District Nurse (DN) SPQ and Learning Disability (LD) SPQ or can DN SPQ holders with field specialists for other community nursing SPQs be enough?

The expectation would be for practice supervisors and practice and academic assessors to be able demonstrate previous learning and experience to undertake supervision and assessment for students studying to become SCPHNs or community specialist community nurses.

Our [Standards for post-registration programmes](#) state the following, approved education institutions, together with practice learning partners, must:

2.1. confirm programmes comply with the NMC Standards framework for nursing and midwifery education including the confirmation of appropriately qualified and experienced people for programme delivery for:

2.1.1. all selected fields of SCPHN practice and/or SCPHN PHN practice and/or for

2.1.2. all selected fields of community nursing SPQ practice and/or in other specified fields of community nursing SPQ in health and social care practice

2.2. confirm SCPHN and/or SPQ programmes comply with the NMC Standards for student supervision and assessment

Practice supervisors and practice and academic assessors must be prepared and supported to take up their role and have up-to-date knowledge and experience relevant to the student they are supervising and assessing.

5. If someone has completed one community nursing SPQ, would they be able to convert to another community nursing field SPQ?

There isn't a direct 'conversion' option to another field of specialist community nursing field but there is an option to map previous formal learning and experience (RPL). Our [Standards for post-registration programmes](#) state AEs, together with learning practice partners, must:

1.6. consider recognition of prior learning that is capable of being mapped to the:

1.6.2. programme learning outcomes and standards of proficiency for the applicant's intended field of community nursing SPQ practice or in other specified field(s) for the community nursing SPQ in health and social care practice

6. In terms of practice learning experiences, what are your expectations?

It is likely that more community nursing roles will be developed in the future that also demand higher levels of clinical autonomy. Our new post registration standards therefore serve to build on current good practice and intend to promote learning and create ambition and opportunity for other registered nurses who work in the community. This is why we have introduced a new SPQ for other fields of community nursing practice.

Practice learning experiences enable students to apply the knowledge, acquire nursing skills and be assessed on their ability to provide safe, effective and kind nursing care in practice and preparedness for work in specialist roles.

We recognise that support and care for people of all ages is increasingly being delivered in the community, in people's homes and in settings close to their homes. Settings can be varied such as people's homes, care homes, hospices, general practice, residential and educational settings and prisons and offender health settings.

Our Standards for post-registration programmes, enable approved education institutions (AEIs) and their practice placement partners the flexibility to develop innovative approaches to practice learning. In section two **Curriculum** of our [Standards for post-registration programmes](#), (AEIs and practice learning partners design the programme, taking account of things such as the needs of the people, communities and populations within their locality and beyond. Section three **Practice learning** sets out our expectations for practice learning for SCPHN and community nursing SPQ students.

7. The Standards for post-registration programmes 3.6 refer to 'culminating in a period of practice learning'. Could you clarify what is the expectation of this in practice?

We want to ensure that learning experiences are tailored to the student's learning, proficiencies and programme outcomes. In order to demonstrate that students can demonstrate proficiency and achievement of the programme's outcomes for their intended field of community nursing SPQ practice, the final placement under the direction of the AEI and practice placement is based on reflection of individual learning needs of the student.

We want students to be empowered and be provided with the learning opportunities they need to achieve the desired proficiencies and programme outcomes

They should be provided with opportunities to develop their own practice and to work towards becoming independent, reflective and professional practitioners.

Student supervision and assessment

8. What are the education and training expectations for supervisors and assessors?

The expectation would be for practice supervisors and practice and academic assessors to be able demonstrate previous learning and experience or preparation to undertake supervision and assessment for students studying to become SCPHNs or community nurses with an SPQ. Our [Standards for post-registration programmes](#) state the following, AEs together with practice learning partners, must:

4.4. ensure practice supervisors:

4.4.1. have undertaken a period of preceptorship in line with the NMC principles for preceptorship as SCPHN or community nursing SPQ qualified professionals or

4.4.2. can evidence prior learning and relevant practice supervisor experience that enables them to facilitate effective evidence-based learning opportunities for post-registration SCPHN or community nursing SPQ students

4.5. ensure practice and academic assessors:

4.5.1. have undertaken a period of preceptorship in line with the NMC principles for preceptorship as SCPHNs or community nurses with a SPQ or

4.5.2. can evidence prior learning and relevant practice assessor experience that enables them to engage in fair, reliable and valid assessment processes in the context of SCPHN and/or community nursing SPQ

4.6. ensure the student is assigned to a practice assessor who is an experienced registered SCPHN or community SPQ nurse for the programme the student is undertaking

Quality assurance

9. For approval events in England, will you approve both an apprenticeship route and conventional SCPHN and community nursing SPQ route at the same event?

Yes, we will conduct the approval of a SCPHN and SPQ apprentice route within a SCPHN and community nursing SPQ programmes.

A trailblazer for the Apprenticeship Standards for Specialist Community Public Health Nurse and Community Nurse Specialist are being coordinated by Skills for Health which reports to the Institute for Apprenticeships to develop the new apprenticeship standard and assessment plan for the health sector.

The group's aim is to consult on the new apprentice standards in March 2023 (and be finalised in May/June 2023).

Miscellaneous

10. How do the Queen's Nursing Institute/ Queen's Nursing Institute Scotland voluntary standards fit with the NMC standards and University approved programmes?

Our standards are regulatory standards and the QNI standards are professional voluntary standards. We will approve new community nursing SPQ programmes in line with our regulatory standards.

11. Will professionals continue to pay to have their new community nursing SPQ annotations to be recorded on their individual PIN?

Yes, payment will continue. For information, please visit [our website](#) for information to add another qualification to the register.