

Future specialist practice qualifications (SPQs): district nursing

Monday 17 May 2021, 2.30-3.30 pm

Please note: for GDPR purposes we are unable to attribute comments to named individuals however the original chatbox comments and questions that were posed during the webinar remain unchanged. Our responses have been added in green italic font.

Time Asked	Question Asked
02:39:08 PM BST	I'm hospice based - we are a community hospice though, no beds, I have a Diploma in Specialist Practice - District nursing <i>Response: Welcome. Thank you for joining us.</i>
02:39:30 PM BST	How many participants are here today? <i>Response: 121 logged in to watch the live webinar. We'll also post the recording on our website, so more can watch later at a convenient time to them.</i>
02:41:35 PM BST	I am currently studying the SPQ programme in District Nursing <i>Response: Welcome. Thank you for joining us.</i>
02:41:41 PM BST	as above - my qualification was in 1991 - a diploma level <i>Response: Thank you.</i>
02:41:48 PM BST	Spq with NMC practice teacher qualification <i>Response: Thank you.</i>
02:41:57 PM BST	Im an associate professor in education - but my community background is SCPHN <i>Response: Thank you for joining us today.</i>
02:41:58 PM BST	I have SPQ District nursing and Masters in community nursing. <i>Response: Thank you for joining us.</i>
02:42:02 PM BST	SCPHN, but really interested in webinar for role as I support community nurses. <i>Response: Thank you for joining us today.</i>
02:48:06 PM BST	will the slides be shared with attendees after the webinar please? <i>Response: Yes, they'll be uploaded to the post-reg events page on the NMC website within the next few days.</i>
02:49:22 PM BST	thank you <i>Response: Thank you.</i>
02:50:48 PM BST	Very excited to hear about proposed SPQ for hospices too - much needed thanks <i>Response: That's good to hear. We hope the new proposed new community SPQ (with no field of practice specified) will be appropriate for many nurses working in existing and emerging settings, including hospices.</i>
02:53:30 PM BST	District nurses also advocate for patients. They do not just educate. <i>Response: We agree which is why advocacy and person-centred care is an important theme embedded in the draft SPQ proficiencies for all fields of community nursing practice.</i>

02:53:56 PM BST	<p>As a district nurse, we continually seem to work within secondary/tertiary care. The issue of public health seems to be missing from the core/bespoke aspects of practice. So we work as public health workers, but get no recognition for it???</p> <p><i>Response: The public health aspect of specialist community nurses is included in the draft standards – see platform 2 ‘Promoting health and preventing ill health.’ The proficiencies in this platform focus on the public health aspect of the specialist community nursing practice.</i></p>
02:57:38 PM BST	<p>‘Bespoke’ is a misleading term when referring to standards of proficiency - it infers that these ‘bespoke’ standards would need to be written for each individual nurse undertaking an annotated SPQ. Might it be helpful if the NMC refers to ‘specific standards’ which are specific to the annotation- the same was they are referred to for SCPHN?</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you for this suggestion. We will consider this when finalising the standards after the consultation closes.</i></p>
02:58:04 PM BST	<p>Please could the NMC provide a clear definition of all the fields of the five SPQs to be annotated, including District Nursing? Thank you.</p> <p><i>Response: Our SPQ’s are qualifications rather than job or role titles. Defining a specific scope of practice for roles is not an area for us as a professional regulator. We will however consider what clarity is needed in the introduction to the standards when finalising the overall standards document in the autumn as part of the post consultation assimilation work.</i></p>
02:58:57 PM BST	<p>I am glad the 'discussion' of prescribing is still being questioned. Many of the DN's I speak to do not want to be V300 prescribers, they see a necessity if V100/150, but concerned that V300 will take them further away from the role of a district nurse</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you for raising this important point. In our pre-consultation engagement, prescribing was one of the most discussed topics, often with differing views. This is the reason we have included a consultation question on this area of community nursing practice to seek varied and nuanced views from a range of stakeholders. It is also important to think about what knowledge and skills district nurses might need in 5-10 years’ time.</i></p>

03:01:52 PM BST	<p>Against what standards of proficiency for the annotation of District Nursing will the field specific content (learning outcomes and curriculum) be judged by the NMC Visitor when approving an SPQ programme for delivery at the AEI? This question concerns the consistency of the knowledge and skills to support the annotated qualification across the UK and the NMC's role in the protection of the public through the prevention of unwarranted variation in standards of education and practice.</p> <p><i>Response: Our draft programme standards include the requirement for education providers to enable students to achieve proficiency against all the standards of proficiency in their chosen field of community nursing practice with suitable theory and practice learning. AEIs together with their practice partners will develop curricula that meet our standards. All necessary documentation will be reviewed by lay and registrant QA visitors and the respective university panel before making any judgements and recommendations to the NMC. NMC QA visitors will be prepared for their role, to ensure that our standards are being met. Further information on how we approve programmes and our QA framework can be found on our website.</i></p>
03:02:02 PM BST	<p>I agree with SPQDN being at Masters level as pre reg is a degree programme now. However, we need to build a phase out process in the programme to facilitate colleagues with Diploma in nursing being able to access a degree or APEL ahead of the programme.</p> <p><i>Response: The draft programme standards include a standard on allowing recognition of prior learning and experience (RPL) to enable all registered nurses to apply for a place on future SPQ education programmes. All AEIs will be able to support prospective post-registration students' applications.</i></p>
03:03:02 PM BST	<p>Can the NMC please define the field of District Nursing referred to?</p> <p><i>Response: Please see earlier response on the difference between qualifications, roles and titles, and our role in that.</i></p>
03:04:47 PM BST	<p>How would that work for individuals that have already got the SPQ DN qualification but wishes to move to public health nursing, will there still be opportunity within the universities to achieve this?</p> <p><i>Response: Yes. Registered nurses with a community SPQ can apply to join SCPHN programmes. The draft programme standards include a standard on allowing recognition of prior learning and experience (RPL) to enable registered nurses (and midwives) to access SCPHN programmes. All AEIs will be able to support all prospective post-registration students' applications.</i></p>
03:07:45 PM BST	<p>it is helpful that the questions for the survey are available for consideration before entering the survey</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you, we recognise this is an important consultation and wanted to make the consultation accessible to all.</i></p>

03:09:52 PM BST	<p>How has the NMC engaged with employers and people who have received the District Nursing service in the creation of the standards?</p> <p><i>Response: Yes, we have engaged with employers and people who use health and care services through our pre-consultation engagement. And we will continue to engage with them throughout the consultation period and beyond.</i></p>
03:11:23 PM BST	<p>Yes but I will be putting in my consultation views</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you – we look forward to receiving lots of responses to the consultation. Most important – if you think there is a requirement for bespoke/specific standards for District Nursing in addition to the drafts, please tell us what they are.</i></p>
03:11:53 PM BST	<p>With the new standards and a move towards M Level training do you feel that there will be a natural progression to rebanding of District Nursing roles?</p> <p><i>Response: Employment titles and pay banding is beyond our remit as a regulator. We do hope that a revised set of standards will inspire nurses to learn and work in specialist nursing roles, continuing to provide the excellent care they already do.</i></p>
03:12:20 PM BST	<p>Are the NMC going to stipulate that practitioners working in the community require an SPQ qualification?</p> <p><i>Response: No, we don't have the legal powers to do that, so as it is now, this is for national and local employers to decide in relation to the skill mix needed to meet the needs of people in the community, not the NMC.</i></p>
03:12:37 PM BST	<p>Are the slides available please</p> <p><i>Response: Yes they are available on the post-reg events page on the NMC website.</i></p>
03:13:00 PM BST	<p>How will this sit with existing work , such as Scottish Government Transforming Roles Community nursing - paper 3?</p> <p><i>Response: Our draft standards are high level, outcome focussed regulatory standards based on 12 different design principles; one of these includes ensuring our standards are applicable to each of the four countries of the UK, and their workforce strategies and policies. However, it is up to policy makers in Scotland to decide how they want to use these standards in the context of their transforming roles work.</i></p>
03:14:01 PM BST	<p>What is the intention for level 6 community nurses? Is it being suggested that level 5 nurses move post Masters immediately to level 7, advanced practice without level 6 experience?</p> <p><i>Response: Please see earlier response on employment roles and banding. Career pathways, roles and banding are matters for employers and not the NMC, although we want to make sure our qualifications are appropriate given the direction of the national strategies. We have committed to exploring whether the regulation of advanced practice is needed next year.</i></p>

03:15:41 PM BST	<p>the proficiencies are very generic and potentially could be interpreted wider - for instance in Adult nursing in ward teams -</p> <p><i>Response: The proficiencies are not generic. Instead they apply to all fields of community nursing practice. The draft standards have not been developed for nurses caring for people in hospital settings, nor did we engage with stakeholders working in those hospital settings. Apart from prescribing the NMC does not currently set post registration standards for nurses working in different fields of practice in hospital settings.</i></p>
03:16:46 PM BST	<p>In terms of prescribing practice - V300 would be required alongside enhanced clinical assessment skills.</p> <p><i>Response: We agree that prescribing practice requires community nurses to have many associated knowledge and skills. For further information on prescribing please see our prescribing standards. Enhanced clinical assessment is included in the draft SPQ proficiencies, in platform 3.</i></p>
03:18:21 PM BST	<p>thanks for that answer Anne</p> <p><i>Response: You're welcome. We're glad you found it useful.</i></p>
03:23:04 PM BST	<p>What is the rationale for the NMC only annotating advanced level practice within the community and not elsewhere please?</p> <p><i>Response: We have not yet begun any work on whether the regulation of advanced practice is needed. We agree that there elements of advanced practice within these standards – prescribing is a good example, this is what practitioners and stakeholders have told us is needed. This is why we describe these standards as a “bridge” to the future work on exploring whether relation of advanced practice is needed that we have committed to undertaking. This will include nurses in all settings.</i></p>
03:23:07 PM BST	<p>Why can't SPQ be regulated like SCPHN? All the SPQ practitioners deal with Safeguarding too, sometimes as core of their work!</p> <p><i>Response: This is largely a regulatory technical difference to do with how these qualifications appear on the register, and this is something that was decided when the NMC was formed and is set within legislation. Read more in question 2 of our post-registration frequently asked questions.</i></p>
03:23:11 PM BST	<p>Please could the NMC define the annotation 'District Nursing' as a field of practice?</p> <p><i>Response: Please see earlier response on the difference between qualifications, roles and titles, and our role in that.</i></p>
03:23:53 PM BST	<p>Please could the NMC provide a definition of the annotation of the field District Nursing</p> <p><i>Response: Please see earlier response on the difference between qualifications, roles and titles, and our role in that.</i></p>
03:24:55 PM BST	<p>With the current qualification after the SPDN course the title of District nurse or District Charge Nurse is obtained. Would this change in the future to a new title and would there be a rebanding? Band 6 at the moment once we obtain the SPQDN but I know there has been chat (for a long time) about potential banding changes.</p> <p><i>Response: Please see earlier response on employment roles and banding.</i></p>

03:27:29 PM BST	<p>Prescribing - it may be there is a country specific requirement e.g. Scotland's Paper 3 for DN strongly suggests V300</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you. We are aware that there are varying views on prescribing so we have included a specific consultation question on this area. Please do participate and formally share your views in the consultation.</i></p>
03:27:34 PM BST	<p>V300 is vital for district nursing. We cannot pick and choose what we want. If we want to be seen as that expert practitioners that we are, then we should be prepared to study at that level too.</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you for your comment. Please do participate and formally share your views in the consultation.</i></p>
03:28:14 PM BST	<p>thanks for the answers regarding prescribing. As I tell the students, the very last thing you do, is to write a prescription</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you for your comment. Please do participate and formally share your views in the consultation.</i></p>
03:29:53 PM BST	<p>Thank you</p> <p><i>Response: Thank you for your comment.</i></p>

Email questions

Question Asked
<p>Will district nurses currently working, and have been, in that role for some time, be required to attend prescribing and assessment courses to meet the new standards set for new spq DN student</p> <p><i>Response: This would form part of the professional development discussion that these nurses have with their employer.</i></p>
<p>With the new standards in Scotland do you think there would be a discussion for rebanding? As present an spq DN is band 6</p> <p><i>Response: Please see earlier response regarding banding which is the responsibility of employers.</i></p>
<p>Can I ask if you think specialist community practitioners with all these enhanced knowledge and skills should be recognised with a minimum of a Band 7 in their professional role</p> <p><i>Response: Please see earlier response regarding banding which is the responsibility of employers.</i></p>