

Programme Audit/Major Modification report

Programme provider:	Chester, University of
In partnership with: (Associated practice placement providers involved in the delivery of the programme)	Countess of Chester Hospital Foundation Trust Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust East Cheshire NHS Trust Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Partnership with States of Jersey General Hospital
Date of review:	06 Sep 2019
Type of Modification	Desktop
Provision reviewed:	Registered Midwife - 36M
Title of current programme:	BSc (Hons) Midwifery
Title of modified programme if changed:	
Academic level of current programme:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 11
Academic level of modified programme if changed:	England, Wales, Northern Ireland <input type="checkbox"/> Level 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 7 SCQF <input type="checkbox"/> Level 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Level 11

Reviewer:	Ms Nicola Clark
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Outcome of Approval Panel Meeting	
Outcome:	Recommended for approval
Conditions and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to:	<p>Resources None identified</p> <p>Admission and progression None identified</p> <p>Practice learning None identified</p> <p>Fitness for practice None identified</p> <p>Quality assurance None identified</p>
Date conditions to be met:	
Recommendations and NMC standard(s)/requirement(s) they relate to: Note: recommendations will be assessed through the AEI annual self-assessment report	None identified
Date conditions met:	
Programme start date:	23 Sep 2019

Summary

Summary of modification request

The University of Chester (UoC) faculty of health and social care (FHSC) provides a three-year BSc (Hons) midwifery pre-registration programme approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) since 2012. The programme team presented documentation for a modification to the approved programme to change from the Standards to support learning and assessment in practice (SLAiP) (NMC, 2008) to the Standards for student supervision and assessment (SSSA) (NMC, 2018) from September 2019. The SSSA have been clearly mapped into the existing programme.

Documentary evidence provides assurance of robust working relationships between the UoC and associated practice learning partners (PLPs), service users and approved education institutions (AEIs) who share practice learning environments. The four AEIs within the Cheshire and Merseyside (C and M) consortium have an established collaborative relationship in developing shared systems to ensure NMC approved programmes comply with regulatory standards. The supervisors and assessors' subgroup from the C and M curriculum and validation group have developed guidance, role descriptors and proposed supporting information on the SSSA. They provide a clear strategy for the implementation of the SSSA for the BSc (Hons) midwifery programme.

Documentary evidence confirms there are clear and comprehensive arrangements in place to prepare practice supervisors, practice assessors and academic assessors for their new roles to meet the SSSA.

Students have been consulted and agree to the transfer to the SSSA from September 2019. Current students will have a half day workshop to prepare them for the SSSA. Students returning from interruption to their programme of study will also receive the half day workshop prior to commencing practice learning.

The modification is recommended to the NMC for approval.

Feedback from key stakeholders

Presenting Team

A desktop review. A Skype call was held on 6 September with the lead midwife for education (LME), representatives from the programme team and the UoC.

Mentors, sign-off mentors, practice teachers and employers

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Students

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Service users and carers

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Examples of notable and innovative practice and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to compliance of education standards and standards they relate to

None identified

Potential risks to the student learning environment and standards they relate to

None identified

Any other risks to public protection

None identified

Areas for future monitoring

- The implementation of the SSSA.

Outcome recommendation

The programme is recommended to the NMC for approval.

NMC Standards

Please refer to the [Standards for Pre-Registration Midwifery Education \(NMC, 2009\)](#), current programme specific circulars accessed via the [NMC Website](#), EU Directive 2005/36/EC Article 41 (1) and Article 31 (6-7), and Section one of the Mott MacDonald [QA Handbook](#).

Standards for the lead midwife for education

Standard 1: Appointment of the lead midwife for education

The NMC requires an approved educational institution (AEI) to do the following:

Appoint a lead midwife for education (LME) who is a practising midwife and has a recorded midwifery teaching qualification on the NMC register.

Confirm the appointment of an LME with the NMC

Use the LME for strategic liaison with external agencies such as purchasers of education provision for all matters affecting midwifery education.

What we found:

Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.

Outcome:	Standard met
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Date standards met:	
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Revised outcome:	
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Standard 2: Development, delivery and management of midwifery education programmes	
The LME shall lead the development, delivery and management of the midwifery education programmes provided by the AEI, ensuring that they comply with the standards established by the NMC.	
What we found:	
<p>Documentary evidence confirms that the LME has led the development of this modification partnership with heads of midwifery in associated PLP organisations, service users and LMEs who share practice learning environments. Services users who attend the programme committee and the service user group 'In-FOCUS' have been informed of the proposed change to the SSSA.</p> <p>Communication and engagement of students is clearly evidenced through student representation at programme committee meetings, student staff liaison meetings and by email. There is agreement from students to transfer to the SSSA. The programme team confirmed that nearly all students had now attended the workshop specifically designed to prepare students for the change to the SSSA. We were informed that evaluations of the workshops are positive.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 3: Signing the supporting declaration of good health and good character	
In accordance with rule 6(1)(a)(ii) of the registration rules, the LME shall be responsible, at her discretion, for signing the supporting declarations of good health and good character for all midwifery applications to the register.	

What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

<p>Standards for admission to, and continued participation in, pre-registration midwifery programmes</p>
<p>Age of entry</p> <p>St. 4</p> <p>General requirements</p> <p>The following requirements for selection should be read and operated alongside programme providers' existing policies and procedures:</p> <p>4.1 Selection</p> <p>Wherever practicable, the selection process should include a face-to-face meeting.</p> <p>Programme providers (AEIs and their service partners) are encourage, wherever possible, to involve lay people and midwifery students in the selection process. Depending on local circumstances they may be involved directly or indirectly in selection.</p> <p>All individuals in the selection process should receive appropriate training, preparation and updating which includes equality and diversity.</p> <p>Representatives of partner service provider organisations should be directly involved in the selection process.</p> <p>The views of the individuals directly involved in selecting applicants should be taken</p>

into account when making final decisions on whether to accept or reject an applicant.

4.2 Literacy and numeracy

AEIs are required to ensure that applicants for pre-registration midwifery education programmes have provided evidence of literacy and numeracy that includes prior achievement of basic skills sufficient to undertake a pre-registration midwifery programme of education to a satisfactory level of attainment.

4.3 Good health and good character

Applicants must demonstrate that they have good health and good character sufficient for safe and effective practice as a midwife, on entry to, and for continued participation in, programmes leading to registration with the NMC.

Applicants from overseas must meet the good health and good character as defined for UK applicants and additionally those requirements set out by the UK government for healthcare workers from overseas

4.4 Entry to the register

The NMC requires a self-declaration of good health and good character from all those entering the register for the first time. On completion of the midwifery programme the student will submit this self declaration. The declaration is either supported by the LME, whose name has been notified to the Council and who is responsible for midwifery education in the relevant AEI, or by her designated registered midwife substitute. AEIs must be able to provide evidence of having fulfilled this requirement.

What we found:

Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.

Outcome:

Standard met

Date standards met:

Revised outcome:

Standard 5: Interruptions to pre-registration midwifery education programmes	
<p>Programme providers must ensure that they have in place processes to manage interruptions to the study of programmes for whatever reason.</p> <p>When a student returns to a programme it is recommended they have a period of orientation appropriate to the length of interruption. Programme providers must ensure that the student's acquired knowledge and skills remain valid, enabling them to achieve the necessary standards required on completion of the course.</p>	
What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 6: Admission with advanced standing	
<p>All applicants, other than those registered as a nurse level one (adult), must complete a minimum three years full-time pre-registration midwifery programme of education.</p> <p>Where a student is already registered with the NMC as a nurse level one (adult), the length of the pre-registration midwifery education programme shall be no less than 18 months full time.</p>	
What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 7: Transfer between approved educational institutions	
It is the responsibility of AEIs to decide whether or not to accept an application for transfer.	
What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 8: Stepping off and stepping on to pre-registration midwifery education programmes	
Students can 'step off' a pre-registration midwifery programme of education.	
What we found:	

Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standards for the structure and nature of pre-registration midwifery programmes	
Standard 9: Academic standard of programme	
<p>Since September 2008 the minimum academic level for entry to the midwives' part of the register for those entering pre-registration midwifery programmes is degree level (NMC Circular 14/2007).</p> <p>Scotland – 360 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level nine.</p> <p>England, Wales and Northern Ireland – 300 academic credits, 60 of which must be at level H.</p>	
What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 10: Length of programme	
<p>Article 31(6-7) of EU Directive 2005/36/EC now describes the length of midwifery programmes in years, months and hours.</p> <p>The length of a pre-registration midwifery programme of education should be no less than three years (equivalent to 156 weeks full time) and each year shall contain 45 programmed weeks.</p> <p>Three year direct entry programme – 4,600 hours (minimum requirement)</p> <p>Where the student is already registered with the NMC as a nurse level one (adult), the length of the pre-registration midwifery programme of education shall not be less than 18 months (equivalent to 78 weeks full time).</p> <p>Eighteen month midwifery programme (following qualification as an adult nurse) – 3,000 hours (minimum requirement).</p>	
What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 11: Student support
Midwife teachers and midwife mentors must meet the NMC's standards to support learning and assessment in practice.

What we found:

There is a planned strategic approach to the implementation of the SSSA. The FHSC has an established practice learning circuit, which is managed and organised by the practice learning support office (PLSO) and/or programme teams. Practice leads and the midwifery programme team are actively engaged in implementing the SSSA. The preparation of the practice staff for the practice supervisor and practice assessor roles to meet the SSSA requirements has been ongoing since March 2019.

There is a cross Cheshire and Merseyside AEI online practice assessment record and evaluation system (OPARE) which is being adapted to record and monitor the number of practice supervisors and assessors within each practice learning environment in readiness for September 2019. This record demonstrates a good supply of existing sign-off mentors who will transfer to the role of practice assessor following attendance at the assessor workshops taking place between July and September 2019.

These new assessor workshops will be part of each NHS trust's existing mandatory maternity annual training programme. Academic links in practice (ALPs) work in collaboration with practice development midwives (PDMs) and practice education facilitators (PEFs) to deliver the SSSA preparation workshops. They will support and monitor progress, completion and adequacy of the numbers of practice supervisors and assessors.

All midwives must meet the criteria to be a practice supervisor and will be prepared for the role by attending practice supervisor workshops.

A nominated midwife practice supervisor, midwife practice assessor and midwife academic assessor will be identified prior to the student commencing practice learning placements. These named individuals are documented and visible within the programme assessment documentation.

Final year student midwives due to qualify and register with the NMC in October 2019 have undertaken a two-day workshop preparing them to become practice supervisors after NMC registration as a midwife.

The FHSC has developed an academic assessor job role, which covers all NMC approved programmes. This role covers the SSSA requirement to collate and confirm student achievement of proficiencies and programme outcomes. This is supported by an academic assessor preparation workshop and a guidance handbook. There is a self-declaration form that is completed by the academic assessor to confirm confidence in their preparation for the role of academic

<p>assessor.</p> <p>The academic assessor has due regard and will work collaboratively with the student's nominated practice supervisor and practice assessor to discuss student conduct, proficiency and achievement. The pre-registration midwifery programme team have provided assurance that all academic staff that will become academic assessors will be midwives with current NMC registration. All the midwifery academic staff are educated to master's level or higher and have a postgraduate diploma or postgraduate certificate in professional education. All midwifery academic assessors undergo annual professional development. Their NMC PINs are checked on an annual basis and recorded on a staff database.</p> <p>The documentation confirms that all students on the approved pre-registration midwifery programme will be assigned to a different nominated academic assessor for each part of the programme.</p> <p>Each practice learning site will continue to be supported by an allocated ALP, PDM and PEF.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 12: Balance between clinical practice and theory	
<p>Since September 2008, the practice to theory ratio of each programme is required to be no less than 50 percent practice and no less than 40 percent theory.</p>	
What we found:	
<p>Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met

Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 13: Scope of practice experience	
<p>Where the opportunity is available, students should be involved in supporting women birthing in a variety of settings.</p> <p>Student midwives must be involved in the care of a small group of women throughout their childbirth experience, including antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal care.</p>	
What we found:	
<p>The scope of practice is unaffected by this change with all student midwives continuing to work within a variety of birth settings.</p> <p>All student midwives commence a caseloading experience during the latter part of the second year of the programme and this continues throughout the entirety of their third year. All practice documentation clearly reflects the changes to the SSSA including the caseload documentation.</p>	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 14: Supernumerary status during clinical placement	
Students undertaking pre-registration midwifery education programmes cannot be employed to provide midwifery care during their training – all clinical experience should be education-led with students having supernumerary status for the duration.	
What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 15: Assessment strategy	
Clinical practice must be graded and be counted as part of the academic award.	
All outcomes within a progression point period (for example an academic year) have to be achieved and confirmed within 12 weeks of entering the next academic level.	
All assessments must be completed and have been passed prior to successful completion of the programme.	
A student midwife shall achieve these standards under the supervision of a sign-off mentor.	
What we found:	
Programme documentation clarifies the assessment strategy and the ongoing support students receive in practice learning environments. We are assured from the evidence that the programme complies with the SSSA in relation to the assessment and progression of students.	
Documentary evidence and discussion during the Skype call confirms the	

assessment of students' proficiency and competence and achievement of EU directives and essential skills clusters. These aspects of the programme are not changing, as the programme is still mapped against the Standards for pre-registration midwifery education (NMC, 2009). However, the new SSSA roles of practice supervisor, practice assessor and academic assessor are clearly identified and their role and contribution to the assessment of practice are detailed and meet SSSA requirements. The practice assessment document (PAD) and ongoing record of achievement (ORA) are updated to reflect these changes.

The structure of the programme has not been affected by the implementation of the SSSA, therefore the progression points are unchanged. The process of grading of midwifery practice in the modified PAD also remains unchanged. The grading of practice continues to count towards the students' academic award.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Standard 16: Ongoing record of achievement

An ongoing record of achievement, including comments from mentors, must be passed from one placement to the next to enable judgements to be made on the student's progress.

What we found:

Documentary evidence confirms the PAD and ORA have been modified to align with the SSSA. The ORA includes reports completed by practice supervisors in each allocated practice learning area. The ORA remains with the student throughout each programme/academic year and is monitored at each progression point and ratified at the module assessment boards and the progression and award boards.

Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

Achieving the NMC standards	
Standard 17: Competencies required to achieve the NMC standards	
Students need to be proficient in all standards by the end of their training in order to practise safely and effectively as a midwife without the need for direct supervision. A student must demonstrate competence in these standards to enter the register as a midwife.	
What we found:	
Standard is unchanged since original approval in 2012.	
Outcome:	Standard met
Date standards met:	
Revised outcome:	

[NMC Circular 03/2011](#)

Resources to support programme intentions

Programme providers must provide evidence at programme approval that resources are currently available to support programme intentions.

What we found:

Documentary evidence and discussion confirms resources are in place to implement and support the SSSA. Partnership agreements are in place and supported by effective partnership working across the north west region.

The north west audit tool via the InPlace placement management system evidences that there are systems, processes, resources and individuals to ensure effective learning opportunities within the practice learning environments. UoC will continue to work in partnership with PLPs to undertake educational audits to monitor the effectiveness of the practice learning environments and compliance with the SSSA.

Outcome:

Standard met

Date standards met:

Revised outcome:

Evidence and references list

- UoC FHSC academic assessor preparation and guidance version one, 2019
- UoC InPlace audit tool user guide for academics: a system user guide for academics version one, 2018
- UoC BSc (Hons) midwifery programme handbook 2019-2020, 3 June 2019
- Cheshire and Merseyside (C and M) consortium curriculum development and validation group notes, March 2019

UoC partnership agreement with local AEs and associated PLPs, 30 May 2019
C and M factsheet for supervisors and practice assessors, version three, undated
C and M understanding professional supervision for learners in practice, undated
C and M understanding professional assessment of learners in practice, undated
UoC letter to heads of midwifery, undated
UoC preparatory two-day workshop for new registrants for practice supervisor role, undated
UoC practice assessor half day workshop 2019, version four revised for midwifery programme, undated
C and M SSSA checklist for practice learning environments, undated
Northwest practice education group (NWPEG) practice assessor self-declaration form, undated
NWPEG academic assessor self-declaration form version two, 6 June 2019
NMPEG practice supervisor self-declaration form, undated
NWPEG terms of reference, February 2019
UoC portfolio of practice learning MW4154 September 2019 cohort, undated
UoC portfolio of practice learning MW5102 September 2018 cohort, undated
UoC portfolio of practice learning MW6200 September 2017 cohort undated
NWPEG practice assessor handbook, undated
UoC FHSC practice skills learning handbook for NMC approved programmes academic year 2019-2020 undated
UoC Practice supervisor half day workshop, undated
NWPEG practice supervisor handbook, undated
UoC year one BSc (Hons) midwifery practice achievement of NMC standards 2019-2020, undated
UoC year two BSc (Hons) midwifery practice achievement of NMC standards 2019-2020, undated
UoC year three BSc (Hons) midwifery practice achievement of NMC standards 2019-2020, undated
UoC FHSC student staff liaison meeting, 5 June 2019
UoC FHSC midwifery programme committee notes, 27 March 2019
UoC FHSC Midwifery programme committee notes, 24 July 2019
UoC FHSC midwifery, child and reproductive health department meeting notes, 7 August 2019
UoC FHSC midwifery, child and reproductive health department meeting notes, 3

July 2019

UoC FHSC midwifery, child and reproductive health department meeting notes, 5 June 2019

UoC FHSC letter to In-FOCUS service user group, 2 September 2019

UoC FHSC letter to student midwives, 2 September 2019

Personnel supporting programme approval

Members of Approval Panel

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Programme Presenters

A desktop review.

The QA visitor had a Skype call on 6 September 2019 with:

- UoC director of practice learning
- UoC senior lecturer and programme leader for return to practice midwifery
- UoC senior lecturer and programme leader for BSc (Hons) Midwifery
- UoC deputy head of midwifery, child and reproductive health
- UoC head of midwifery, child and reproductive health and LME

Were any service providers visited?

Not applicable - Desktop review.

Meetings with others

Mentors / sign-off mentors	
Practice teachers	
Service users / Carers	
Practice Education Facilitator	
Director / manager nursing	
Director / manager midwifery	
Education commissioners or equivalent	

Designated Medical Practitioners	
Other (please specify)	

If there were no representatives present during the approval event please state why:
Not applicable - Desktop review.

Meetings with students

Nursing						
Adult		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
Mental Health		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
Children's		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
Learning Disabilities		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	
Midwifery (3 year)		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		
Midwifery (18 month)		Year 1	Year 2			
SCPHN		HV	SN	OH	FHN	RPHN
Learning and Assessment in Practice		Mentor		Practice Teacher	Teacher	

Nurse Prescribing		V100	V150	V300
Specialist Practice		Adult	Mental Health	Children's
		Learning Disability	General Practice Nursing	Community Mental Health Nursing
		Community Learning Disabilities Nursing	Community Children's Nursing	District Nursing

Additional evidence viewed

NMC approval report BSc (Hons) 36month midwifery programme, 1 May 2012

Care Quality Commission inspection report Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, 13 July 2018

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Issue record

Author:	Nicola Clark	Date:	06 Sep 2019
Checked by:	Judith Porch	Date:	20 Sep 2019
Approved by:	Leeann Greer	Date:	23 Sep 2019



Protecting the public through
quality assurance of nursing
and midwifery education

