Practice learning

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Approved education institutions together with practice learning partners must:

3.1provide practice learning opportunities that allow students to develop and meet the Standards of proficiency for nursing associates to deliver safe and effective care to a diverse range of people across the lifespan and in a variety of settings

3.2ensure that students experience the variety of practice expected of nursing associates to meet the holistic needs of people of all ages

3.3take account of students' individual needs and personal circumstances when allocating their practice learning including making reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities, and

3.4ensure that nursing associate students have protected learning time in line with one of the following two options:

3.4.1Option A: nursing associate students are supernumerary when they are learning in practice

3.4.2Option B: nursing associate students, via work-placed learning routes:

3.4.2.1are released for a minimum of 20 per cent of the programme for academic study

3.4.2.2are released for a minimum of 20 per cent of the programme time, which is assured protected learning time in external practice placements, enabling them to develop the breadth of experience required for a generic role, and

3.4.2.3for the remainder of the required programme hours, protected learning time must be assured.

4 Nursing associate students are not required to have placements in each field of nursing, but should, through their education programme, benefit from experience of children and adults, and people who use services/patients with mental health conditions and learning disabilities, and understand the most significant factors to be aware of when providing care to different people who use services

5 Protected learning time is designated time in which students are supported to learn. All students are appropriately supervised until they have demonstrated proficiency in aspects of care. Supernumerary status is one approach to protected learning time

6 The 20 percent specified here is not the total sum of theoretical learning students will need to undertake, please see standard 2.7 which requires equal weighting of theory and practice in the curriculum.