18 December 2015

To whom it may concern,

Re. Consultation on education programme standards and competencies for nurse practitioner scope of practice.

Group Submission: Kidz First Neonatal Care, Clinical Nurse Specialist Team – Neonatal

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. Herewith follow our response.

Consultation questions Draft education programme standards Option 1: Standards for consistent student assessment
Do you support the assessment of competence of nurse practitioner candidates within specified education programmes as outlined in the Draft education programme standards?
Please give your reasons.

No.
There is a potential for a conflict of interest.
Educational institutes in our opinion needs to provide education and should not sign off on clinical competence. The translation and application of theoretical knowledge into clinical practice is not a given, even if the student delivers work of an above average academic standard.
There is a need to ensure advanced nurses working towards NP status receive the same level of training and uniform competency testing.

Do you think any of the following requirements will address potential conflict of interest and ensure assessments of nurse practitioner candidates are completed to a consistent standard?
a. Involving suitably qualified members of the multidisciplinary team and practice representatives and/or
b. External moderation of assessments by other education providers and/or
c. Setting standards for assessment and closer moderation by the Council.
Please give your reasons or any other suggestions

No. What about a practicum paper (300 credits) whereby a competence exam is held at the end and signed off by clinicians and educator alike. This is reasonable.

Option 2: The candidate also submits a portfolio of learning to the Council
Do you support the candidate also submitting a portfolio of learning to the Council?
Please give your reasons

Yes.
A portfolio of learning is appropriate.
It is of our opinion that a senior nurse should be able to present a professional piece of work which supports and demonstrates their learning.
This will allow a regulatory filter for candidates, allow moderation and evaluate potential inconsistencies/ confirm uniformity between educational providers.

Student assessment standards
Do you support the assessment methods outlined in 8.4 and 8.10 of the draft education programme standards?

a. a portfolio of learning and clinical log of practice experience
b. simulated scenario based assessment
c. viva voce clinical assessment
d. observation in clinical practice settings.
Please give your reasons

Yes
The mentioned frameworks are all reasonable assessment frameworks that are familiar to advanced practice nurses.

During the masters programme (as part of practicum paper) simulations and viva voce could be signed off by a clinician from the specialist area and a representative of the educational institute.

Regular assessments / observation during placements in the clinical setting is extremely valuable will provide ongoing progress reports – identifying strengths or key deficits, early and continuously; this is important to appropriately shape the students learning. The key here would be to utilise appropriate, standardised assessment tools.

Nurse practitioners are the clinical teaching staff
Do you support nurse practitioners as the clinical teaching staff for each student’s clinical experience?
Please give your reasons

Yes.
There is a concern that there is not enough NP available in speciality areas to support this. When feasible this will be vital to progress, so to develop advanced nursing practice independently from a medical model.

The nurse practitioner practicum
Do you support the standards for the nurse practitioner practicum outlined in section 10 of the draft education programme standards?
Please give your reasons

Yes

General questions
Do you support the draft education programme standards?

Any other comments related to the draft education programme standards?

Yes
As part of the assessment for the 300 hours of 'practicum' time required for NP application, a portfolio could be required which is of a standard to be submitted to the council.

Consultation questions draft competencies
Do you agree that the draft competencies for nurse practitioners describe the knowledge and skills required of new nurse practitioners?

Yes
It is a good start. Education is ongoing and will develop as the NP model develops

Do you agree that the draft competencies provide enough detail to guide education requirements and student assessment?

Yes, no further comment

Consultation question supervision
Do you support newly registered nurse practitioners practising under supervision for one year?

Yes. In particular there needs to be an expectation that this time is sacred and cannot be taken off the NP due to clinical shortfalls.

Thank you for accepting this collated response.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Nevill – on behalf of Kids First Neonatal Team Care

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Consultation Doc Kidz First Neonatal Care