



## Position statement      **Clinical practice experience for undergraduate nursing**

---

**The purpose of this joint position statement between the executive groups of the Nurse Executives of New Zealand (NENZ) and Nurse Education in the Tertiary Sector (NETS) is to have a common set of agree principles and responsibilities to guide provision of clinical experience for undergraduate nursing students.**

### **Target Groups**

- NZ Schools of Nursing
- Clinical Services who provide clinical experience for NZ undergraduate nursing students
- Nursing students who are undertaking clinical experience in New Zealand health services

### **Scope of the Guidelines**

For the purpose of this paper the following definitions apply:

- **Clinical education** refers to the student learning experience that occurs in an environment where health care is delivered
- **Clinical learning** is about developing the thinking and practice of nursing
- **Clinical teacher** refers to the teacher employed by the Education Institution responsible for the students while on placement
- **Clinical nurse** is the nurse employed by the health service provider responsible for the supervision of the nursing practice undertaken by the student.

### **General Principles**

#### **Clinical Experience**

- Providing a quality learning experience requires a partnership between education and the health service.
- Clinical experience must be well planned and all participants prepared for the experience. This includes client/service user consent. The student should have access to appropriate practice experiences that leads to Nursing Council of New Zealand Competencies for Registered Nurse practice.
- Clinical experience should meet the Nursing Council of New Zealand Education Programme Standards for the Registered Nurse Scope of Practice (June 2006). This includes having a clinical education support agreement / MOU between the education institution and the clinical practice provider.

#### **Clinical Learning and Teaching**

- Clinical learning is about developing critical thinking in the practice of nursing, reinforcing a theoretical foundation and practice application.

#### **Clinical Practice Assessment**

- Assessment of the student is the responsibility of the education institution.
- Clinical providers share the learning responsibility through support of the clinical experience opportunities. Clinical staff feedback about student performance in the clinical placement is important.



## **Clinical Experience Responsibilities**

### ***Preparation for Clinical Experience***

- The education institution is responsible for the student and the student learning.
- Works with clinical service providers to ensure access to relevant clinical practice environments to enhance the learning experience.
- Organises practice experience in accordance to the clinical education support agreement between educational institution and the service provider.
- Has a developmental framework for practice with clear outcomes for each level that culminates with outcomes that reflect the NCNZ competences.
- Ensures that the planned experience allows the outcomes to be achieved.
- Students require time and opportunity to practice in order to develop competence in nursing practice.
- Provides the information required for the service staff to be ready and prepared for the students experience.
- Students should be prepared i.e. theoretical and skill preparation, prior to going out to a practice experience. This is supported by the Clinical Teacher/Lecturer in practice.
- Assessment should be based on clear explicit criteria.
- Assessment decisions should be supported with examples of the students practice or behaviour.
- The clinical service provider is responsible for safe clinical service provision. The registered nurse is responsible for the quality of nursing care given to patients and is responsible for the direction of care activities undertaken by students.
- Provides a quality learning experience in partnership with education provider.
- Provides practice experience in accordance with a clinical education support agreement.
- Negotiates timeframes of experience that allow the student to be reasonably able to demonstrate the required outcomes.
- Registered Nurses work alongside students so that learning occurs about nursing practice. The student works under the direction of a registered nurse, undertaking nursing practices delegated by the registered nurse.
- Preceptor ensures that patients are informed of the student presence and address issues if they arise.
- Prepares, with theoretical and clinical knowledge, for the placement.
- Understands the requirements and learning outcomes.
- Attends with a positive, proactive attitude to achieve the most from each clinical placement.
- Is willing to undertake clinical practice as delegated.
- Is willing to receive constructive and professional feedback.
- Meets the requirements of the clinical experience objectives.
- Identifies personal learning required.

### ***Clinical learning & teaching***

- Provides clinical staff and students with explicit outcomes and instructions for the experience.
- Ensures all students have adequate theoretical and skill preparation appropriate for and prior to the practice experience o Ensures students have a full orientation that will safely prepare them for the practice experience.
- Provides relevant clinical teaching for student on placement.



- Ensures teaching staff can be contacted by students and clinical staff within reasonable timeframe.
- Gives regular feedback to students on their practice and give clear goals to achieve where there are problems with the level of performance.
- Seeks regular feedback from the clinical staff on the students' progress
- Welcomes students and plans preceptor / team allocation.
- Ensures all staff understand the expectations of the student placement.
- Orientates students to practice area and ensures access to relevant policies and procedures.
- Ensures students know under whose delegated authority or supervision he/she is working.
- Provides appropriate direction of students practice.
- Gives regular clear and constructive feedback each clinical day to the student and/or teacher on quality of student practice.
- Communicates with the teacher or education institution as soon as possible of any concern about student practice.
- Knows under whose direction he/she is working in the clinical setting i.e. named nurse.
- Ensures he/she is oriented to the practice area.
- Seeks the patients consent prior to commencing care.
- Can expect to have their practice observed by both the supervising nurse and their clinical teacher.
- Maintains a standard of behaviour in keeping with a professional code of conduct at all times. Is responsible for own behaviour and all activities undertaken.
- Seeks clinical learning opportunities.
- Understands the nature of the care to be given before undertaking to deliver it.
- Practices within specified policies and limitations required by the health service provider.
- Informs of any change in patient status or incidents immediately.

***Assessment / evaluation of student learning***

- Is responsible for all assessment decisions regarding the student practice.
- Bases assessment on clear explicit criteria and includes feedback.
- Seek regular feedback from the clinical area on the students' performance.
- Uses a format for clinical staff feedback against clearly understood criteria.
- Assessment decisions are supported with examples of the students/practice that occurred while on the placement.
- Clinical staff provide feedback to the student and/or teachers that contributes to assessment decisions using criteria which are clearly understood and supported.
- Clinical staff are included in decisions regarding final competency assessment for practice.
- The final clinical assessment, prior to course completion, is supported with documentation from clinical staff, overseen by the Clinical Nurse Manager.
- Seeks feedback from clinical and teaching staff on their practice development.
- Participates in the final clinical assessment prior to course completion.
- The student contributes to the final assessment through a self-assessment of their own practice