



## Position statement

## Clinical practice experience for nursing students

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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

- Tertiary Education Providers (TEPs) who provide education pathways for entry to the registered or enrolled nurse scope of practice
- Health and Disability Service Providers who provide clinical experience for NZ nursing students
- Nursing students who are undertaking clinical experience in NZ Health and Disability 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 practice provider)
- **Clinical learning** is about developing the thinking and practice of nursing
- **Clinical teacher** refers to the person employed by the TEP responsible for the students while on placement
- **Preceptor** is the registered nurse employed by the clinical practice 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 clinical practice provider.
- 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 contribute to the achievement of the Competencies for the Registered Nurse Scope of Practice or Competencies for the Enrolled Nurse Scope of Practice.
- Clinical experience should meet the Nursing Council of New Zealand Education Programme Standards for the Registered Nurse Scope of Practice (Amended March 2015) and the Handbook for pre-registration nursing programmes (Amended July 2019) This includes having a clinical education support agreement/MOU between the TEP 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 TEP.



- Clinical practice 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***

##### TEPs:

- Work with clinical practice providers to ensure access to relevant clinical practice environments to enhance the learning experience.
- Organise practice experience in accordance to the clinical education support agreement between TEP and the clinical practice provider.
- Develop a framework for practice with clear outcomes for each level that culminates with outcomes that reflect the NCNZ competences.
- Ensure that the planned experience allows the outcomes to be achieved.
- Provide students with the time and opportunity to practice in order to develop competence in nursing practice.
- Provide the information required for the clinical practice provider staff to be ready and prepared for the student's experience.
- Ensure students receive the required theoretical and skill preparation, prior to going out to a practice experience. This is supported by the Clinical Teacher in practice.
- Ensure assessments are based on clear explicit criteria.
- Ensure assessment decisions are supported with examples of the students practice or behaviour.

##### Clinical practice providers:

- Ensure a safe clinical service provision - the preceptor is responsible for the quality of nursing care given to patients and is responsible for the direction of care activities undertaken by students.
- Provide a quality learning experience in partnership with the TEP.
- Provide practice experience in accordance with a clinical education support agreement.
- Negotiate timeframes of experience that allow the student to be reasonably able to demonstrate the required outcomes.
- Ensure preceptors work alongside students so that learning occurs about nursing practice. The student works under the direction of a preceptor, undertaking nursing practices delegated by the preceptor.
- Ensure that patients are informed of the student presence by the preceptor and addresses issues if they arise.

##### Students:

- Preparing, with theoretical and clinical knowledge, for the placement.
- Understanding the requirements and learning outcomes.
- Providing a positive, proactive attitude to achieve the most from each clinical placement.
- Willingly undertaking clinical practice as delegated.
- Willingly receiving constructive and professional feedback.
- Meeting the requirements of the clinical experience objectives.
- Identifying personal learning required.



***Clinical learning & teaching***

TEPs:

- Provide clinical staff and students with explicit outcomes and instructions for the experience.
- Ensure all students have adequate theoretical and skill preparation appropriate for and prior to the practice experience
- Ensure students have a full orientation that will safely prepare them for the practice experience.
- Provide relevant clinical teaching for student on placement.
- Ensure teaching staff can be contacted by students and clinical staff within reasonable timeframe.
- Give regular feedback to students on their practice and give clear goals to achieve where there are problems with the level of performance.
- Seek regular feedback from the clinical staff on the students' progress

Clinical practice providers:

- Welcome students and plan preceptor/team allocation.
- Ensure all staff understand the expectations of the student placement.
- Orientate students to the practice area and ensure access to relevant policies and procedures.
- Ensure students know under whose delegated authority or supervision he/she is working.
- Provide appropriate direction of students practice.
- Give regular clear and constructive feedback each clinical day to the student and/or teacher on quality of student practice.
- Communicate with the teacher or TEP as soon as possible of any concern about student practice.

Students:

- Know under whose direction he/she is working in the clinical setting i.e. named preceptor.
- Ensure he/she is oriented to the practice area.
- Seek the patients consent prior to commencing care.
- Expect to have their practice observed by both the supervising nurse and their clinical teacher.
- Maintain a standard of behaviour in keeping with a professional code of conduct at all times.
- Are responsible for own behaviour and all activities undertaken.
- Actively seek clinical learning opportunities.
- Understand the nature of the care to be given before undertaking to deliver it.
- Practice within specified policies and limitations required by the clinical practice provider.
- Inform of any change in patient status or incidents immediately.



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

TEPs:

- Are responsible for all assessment decisions regarding the student practice.
- Base 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.

Clinical practice providers:

- Support assessment decisions with examples of the students/practice that occurred while on the placement.
- Provide feedback to the student and/or teachers that contributes to assessment decisions using criteria which are clearly understood and supported.
- Include clinical staff in decisions regarding final competency assessment for practice.
- Ensure the final clinical assessment, prior to course completion, is supported with documentation from clinical staff, overseen by the Clinical Nurse Manager.

Students:

- Seek feedback from clinical and teaching staff on their practice development.
- Participate in the final clinical assessment prior to course completion.
- Contributes to the final assessment through a self-assessment of their own practice