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**Are you interested in supporting student nurses in your practice?**

Becoming a student nurse supervisor /assessor is a truly rewarding experience- they support newly qualified nurses/students through their training, teach clinical skills, communication skills and help pave the way for the next generation of nurses. Due to the increase in admissions to university to study nursing, there is a much higher demand for placements. This opportunity can be used to showcase nursing in General Practice and encourage student nurses to consider Primary Care a first destination career, once graduated, feeding our workforce. Students can experience what an incredibly varied and rewarding role practice nursing is.

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**Frequently asked questions**

***When will students be out on placement?*** A student is allocated to the practice placement by the Training Hub and HEI. Placements can vary from 2-12 weeks, but the placement will always be made following agreement with the practice nursing team/practice manager to ensure the practice can accommodate the student.

***Which university will my student belong to?*** The student will come from a university within your local area; your practice will usually be aligned with a university which will be determined when your practice opens up as a placement. This could be Chester University, Manchester metropolitan, University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University, Edge Hill University or University of Chester. There will be an academic link attached to your practice that can support you and will conduct the initial audit, in conjunction with the Placement Development Lead.

***What is a Placement Development Lead?*** PDLs are experienced General Practice nurses, with a main focus on developing quality learning environments aligned to Training Hubs across Cheshire and Merseyside. They act as a support and advisory link for practices that support students

***How much time will I be expected to spend with my student?*** Students are no longer required to spend 40% of their time being supervised by their assessor/supervisor.

For purposes of indemnity, the student should be supervised at all times when delivering care, but this can be by any registered practitioner. Students can also shadow any members of staff in practice where it will be of benefit. It is encouraged for students to spend time with other professionals within the PCN such as District nurses, Community matrons, Care Coordinators Pharmacists and Care Homes etc. to gain a full picture and understanding of the PCN and what career opportunities are available.

***What is the difference between a mentor, assessor and supervisor?*** The term “mentor” has been removed since the implementation of the new NMC Standards for Student Supervision and Assessment. Students are assigned a practice supervisor, practice assessor and an academic assessor. Practice supervisors can be any registered health and social care professional and contribute to the student’s record of achievement. Practice assessors conduct assessments to confirm student achievement of proficiencies and programme outcomes for practice learning. Assessment decisions by practice assessors are informed by feedback sought and received from practice supervisors, they make and record objective, evidenced-based assessments on conduct, proficiency and achievement, drawing on student records, direct observations, student self-reflection, and other resources.

Practice assessors cannot simultaneously be the supervisor for the same student.

***How do I become a practice supervisor and/or assessor?***

The NMC Code of Conduct (2018), states that registered nurses must support students’ and colleagues’ learning to help them develop their professional competence and confidence. With this in mind, all registered nurses should have the competence to be a practice supervisor. It is recognised, however, that they need to receive ongoing support to prepare, reflect and develop for effective supervision and contribution to student learning and assessment, and have understanding of the proficiencies and programme outcomes they are supporting students to achieve.

Practice assessors will have undertaken preparation or evidence prior learning and experience that enable them to demonstrate achievement minimum outcomes. This may be from a previous mentorship or teaching qualification, or from experience of supervision, assessment or mentorship.

There are workbooks and preparation packs proved by the training hub, and self-declaration forms which are available electronically on PARE online (Practice Assessment Record and Evaluation- this is the online tool that records student assessments and progress).

Your Placement Development Lead and University link can also support you in accessing this.

***How much time will be spent on placement and how do I know I will have a student?***

A student is usually allocated to the practice placement by the Training Hub. Placements can vary from 2-12 weeks, but the placement will always be made following agreement with the practice nursing team/practice manager to ensure the practice can accommodate the student.

***What will learners be able to do?***

-Learners are part of the team for the duration of the placement, undertaking clinical activity with supervision from their supervisor/assessor or other professionals.

-Placement Learning outcomes determine learning experiences.

-The learner and supervisor discuss what learning opportunities are available within the practice and agree on how these can be met.

-Learners can administer anything covered by a Patient Specific Direction under supervision

-Learners can check weights, heights, recording in a child’s hand held health record (red book) during child health reviews.

-Learners can carry out vital signs e.g. BP, Temp, Pulse, Oxygen Saturations.

-Learners can formulate patient information leaflets around learning outcomes e.g. Diet and Diabetes.

-Learners are expected to attend any Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings held whilst on placement.

-Learners can undertake a patient history, the supervisor would check and discuss with the learner.

-Learners can participate in audits.

-Learners are able to adapt the skills being learnt with their supervisor gain the best experience and learning environment for them.

***What can’t learners do?***

Learners **cannot** run clinics alone.

Learners **cannot** administer anything covered by **Patient Group Directives**.

Learners **cannot** take blood.

***What about Covid?***

Prior to placement, all students will have received a risk assessment by their university. It is recognised that we currently have new ways of working and it is useful to expose students to virtual consultations, telephone consultation, e-consult, group video consults as well as face to face consults. Supervisors can be creative in their learning environments, and the PDLs can issue you with a student nurse learning resource pack which will offer opportunities for digital resources, practice based scenarios which the student can complete and reflect upon with the supervisor or assessor.

## What are the benefits?

There is a student placement tariff, of approximately £94 per week pro rata, which will be paid retrospectively to the practice. Some practice nurse teams use this tariff to support their own CPD

The practice can claim £40 for time spent preparing to take a student, supervisor/assessor declarations etc.

Several practices have employed their students once graduated, resolving succession planning issues. You are supported throughout by the university and your local training hub, specifically, you will be allocated a placement development lead who can answer any questions or offer support.

## What’s the process of becoming a clinical learning environment?

The SOP outlines the steps and can be accessed here:



All contacts are contained within and also on the following page.

***The Primary Care Academy is made up of 5 Locality Training Hubs based around the Cheshire and Merseyside area, all hosted within GP Practices. We also oversee paramedic and physician associate placements. Your local hubs are detailed below.***

***Please contact them for further information or go to our website.***

**Brownlow**

70 Pembroke Place, Liverpool, L69 3G

Liverpooltraininghub@livgp.nhs.uk

Placement Development Lead- Rachel Cross

**Sunlight Group**

Parkfield Medical Centre, Wirral CH62 5HS

[Jennine.edge@nhs.net](mailto:Jennine.edge@nhs.net)

Placement Development Lead- Louise Smyth

**Cheshire Training Hub**

Wellington Rd, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5JH [Falan.barton@nhs.net](mailto:Falan.barton@nhs.net)

Placement Development Lead- Heather Glover

Placement Development Lead- Lorraine Hughes

# Spinney

23 Whittle St., St Helens WA9 3EE [Spinney.etpadmin@nhs.net](mailto:Spinney.etpadmin@nhs.net)

Placement Development Lead- Lindsey Johnson/Susan Burgess

**Southport & Formby Health**

2 Leamington Rd, Southport PR8 3LB [Etp.admin@nhs.net](mailto:Etp.admin@nhs.net)

Placement Development lead- Maggi Bradle