

The All Wales Healthcare Student **PACT**: Supporting healthcare students' safe entry into practice learning environments during pandemic conditions

November 2020

Introduction

All nursing, midwifery, allied health profession and healthcare science students are making a significant contribution to service delivery through their ongoing commitment to academic and practice learning. Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW), Welsh Government, Universities, Placement Providers and key stakeholders, continue to implement the contingencies necessary for students to progress their journey on healthcare programmes.

Previously published 'All Wales COVID-19 Placement Recovery Principles' provide quality benchmark measures for Universities, Placement Providers and professional bodies to facilitate and empower students' learning during pandemic circumstances: <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/all-wales-covid-19-placement-recovery-principles/>

This document, 'The Healthcare Student **PACT**' is directed towards you as students and provides several pledges by organisations involved in supporting your safe entry into practice learning environments, given the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

The document draws together several student support elements designed to help alleviate your concerns about practice learning at this time and underlines an organisational commitment to sustainable, high quality healthcare student education.

All Wales Healthcare Student **PACT** - *An organisational commitment to:*

Partnership	➤ Facilitating innovative practice learning solutions
Accountability	➤ Responding to feedback and concerns
Credibility	➤ Supporting quality supervision and assessment
Trust	➤ Enabling learning in pandemic conditions

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In collaboration, we (HEIW, Welsh Government, Universities, Placement Providers and key stakeholders) will work to support you (nursing, midwifery, allied health profession and healthcare science students) to continue your programme of learning to the point of professional registration, in line with the All Wales Healthcare Student PACT:

Partnership	➤ Facilitating innovative practice learning solutions
1.	Where COVID-19 results in reconfigured and redesigned services, we will support student learning, work to open-up new learning opportunities for you, consolidate existing practice learning environments and act to resolve placement capacity issues wherever possible.
2.	<p>We will ensure you have the information required to complete a 'Safe-Return Student Passport' to support your entry into practice learning environments, including completion of an individual risk assessment, core induction content, and orientation to specific allocated practice learning environments.</p> <p>All Wales COVID-19 Workforce Risk Assessment Tool: https://gov.wales/covid-19-workforce-risk-assessment-tool</p> <p>All Wales Safe-return Student Passport: https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/covid-19-placement-recovery-student-passport-form/</p>
3.	<p>If you have a 'high' or 'very high' risk score after completing the All Wales COVID-19 Workforce Risk Assessment Tool (or equivalent), your University will discuss your individual programme options with you. Your safety is of paramount concern. Organisations will not take any actions to compromise this.</p> <p>Options may include continuation of practice learning experiences, a non-client facing placement or alternative academic pathway (if appropriate and available), or a temporary suspension of studies. If you can undertake practice learning experiences, where agreed, your University and Placement Provider will ensure your RAG¹ rated placement allocation is appropriate for you when measured against your individual risk score.</p>

¹ RAG refers to Red, Amber, Green zoning of practice environments.

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Accountability	➤ Responding to feedback and concerns
4.	We will act on your queries, concerns and requests for information in a timely manner, signpost you to relevant organisations and individuals who are best placed to respond, and where required, update existing policy guidance.
5.	Your University and Placement Provider will signpost you with relevant information and the appropriate personal support necessary to access student health and well-being resources and services: HEIW resources: https://heiw.nhs.wales/covid-19/health-and-wellbeing-resources/
6.	We will embody the principles of compassionate leadership, fairness and transparency, and expect the same of you as a healthcare profession student: https://heiw.nhs.wales/programmes/leadership/

Credibility	➤ Supporting quality supervision and assessment
7.	We will facilitate opportunities for you to work towards achievement of your programme competencies/proficiencies and do all that we can to avoid any unnecessary delay to your programme completion.
8.	In collaboration with Placement Providers, your University will endeavour to provide timely notification of practice allocations whilst respecting that the availability and designation of placements may be subject to alteration.
9.	We will ensure you are appropriately supervised and assessed when undertaking practice learning in line with the requirements of your programme.
10.	We will make arrangements to support your supernumerary status during your practice learning experiences.

Trust	➤ Enabling learning in pandemic conditions
11.	<p>We will ensure you can access documentation to support your key worker status when undertaking practice learning which may include you needing to cross COVID-19 restricted boundaries.</p> <p>HEIW/Welsh Government Position Statement on key worker status: https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/covid-19-position-statement/</p>
12.	<p>We will provide you with information about the NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance Scheme which covers students on placement: https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-and-social-care-coronavirus-life-assurance-scheme-2020-wales</p>
13.	<p>We will ensure all practice learning environments are appropriately audited to provide supervised student learning experiences: https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/covid-19-temporary-educational-audit-of-the-practice-learning-environment/</p>

Message to healthcare students:

“Thank you for your ongoing commitment to healthcare delivery during pandemic conditions. Your efforts and achievements as a healthcare student and future registrant will make a huge contribution to the sustainability of the health and social care workforce in Wales.”

HEIW November 2020