



Date: 15 January 2021

Dear student,

### **RE: Correspondence to all nursing and midwifery students in Wales**

We would like to formally thank all of you studying in Wales who were in a position to come forward and support our health and care services during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. We committed at the outset of this pandemic that our priority was to ensure any emergency measures would not unduly affect your ability to complete your education programmes. We have continued to work closely with our health and social care partners, our Universities and our professional associations (RCN and RCM) to support you as students under the emergency Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) programme standards and the subsequent recovery standards, and we are very appreciative to all of those involved in that collaborative support.

The NMC has recently announced the reintroduction of a number of emergency programme standards. Importantly all students will still be required to meet all of the learning outcomes and requirements to complete their programme and join the NMC register. These emergency standards as outlined below may be implemented depending on local circumstances:

- enable **first year nursing and midwifery students** to focus on academic and online learning rather than participating in clinical placements while the system is under pressure due to the pandemic
- enable **final year nursing students** to opt in to undertake paid clinical placements while the emergency standard is in place
- give education institutions and their practice learning partners more flexibility to ensure students get appropriate support and supervision
- The **standards for Supervision and Assessment** have been amended to allow the same person to fulfil the role of practice supervisor and practice assessor for the period that this emergency standard is in place. This will help to create additional flexibility within nursing and midwifery education and enable student assessment and supervision to be maintained.

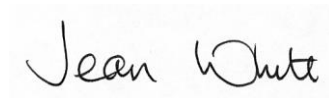
The NMC has emphasised that the changes to the nurse education emergency standards are optional and that students should be actively supported and encouraged to continue their placements as normal where possible.

In Wales, at the current time we have chosen not to make any changes to the way your theoretical and practice learning is organised other than the same person fulfilling the role of practice supervisory and assessor. We want your practice learning to continue as planned. Our priority is the timely registration of final year students, and we want you to retain your supernumerary status on placement. We will keep this position under continuous review.

We know that many of you do undertake bank work and will be interested in supporting the workforce alongside their studies. As usual, you can undertake paid work as a Healthcare Support Worker in your own time. If you are interested in joining the bank you can do this through your local health board or trust.

Your contribution is valued and we continue to be proud of the part that you play in supporting health and care services in Wales and we look forward to welcoming you as registrants to join our workforce in Wales.

Yours sincerely



Professor Jean White CBE  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Nurse Director NHS Wales



Dr Angela Parry  
Interim Director of Nursing,  
Executive Lead for Allied Health Professionals  
and Healthcare Scientists  
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