



Placement learning opportunities, student buddying scheme and pharmacology provision at the University of Gloucestershire.

During the NMC/HLSP monitoring review of the Independent and Supplementary Nurse Prescribing Programme earlier this year the Programme Team were delighted to achieve an outstanding grade for following three areas of practice that were deemed worthy of dissemination.

Placement Learning Opportunities

In order to support students to achieve the best learning opportunities from the supervised learning component of the programme the Programme Team encourage them to think about their individual clinical learning needs and how they are going to meet them so that by the end of the programme they will be able to demonstrate that they are fit to practice the prescribing role. At the start of the programme students are required to work with their Designated Medical Practitioners (DMPs) and managers to identify a plan which outlines the activities they will complete during their 12 days supervised practice. They are encouraged to ensure that these activities provide them with a variety of experiences that will enable them to apply the theoretical underpinning of the programme to complex of clinical practice and equip them for their role as a safe competent prescriber. The Programme Team have found that by working with the DMP and manager to formally plan their supervised practice students spend their time more productively and are more likely to achieve a wider range of learning experiences.

Student Buddying Scheme

One of the NHS Trusts within Gloucestershire has worked closely with the University to pilot a Buddying scheme for students on the Nurse Prescribing Programmes that has been a great success. It is hoped this will be extended to other Trusts in the near future. Current students are teamed with members of staff from the Trust who have completed the programme in the past and are developing the prescribing role within their work place. The students find that this scheme provides them with the opportunity to meet with someone who can support them with the clinical application of their new knowledge as well as giving them hints and tips for actually getting through the programme. The 'Buddys' have also reported benefiting from being involved as it provides them with the opportunity to keep up to date with the changes that impact on their Non-Medical Prescribing role. This scheme has been co-ordinated by the Non-Medical Prescribing Lead for the Trust with support and encouragement from the University Team.

Pharmacology Provision

It was decided early in the development of the programme that the pharmacology component would consist of students being taught the underpinning concepts of pharmaco-dynamics and -kinetics rather than considering groups of different drugs individually. Students are then given support to apply this general knowledge to the specific drugs that they will be prescribing on completion of the programme so that they build up their own individual formulary. Whilst this process is supported the University Programme Team students find the time spent with their DMPs particularly helpful as it enables them to really apply their knowledge within the context of their work roles. Feedback from the DMPs has suggested that this approach not only benefits the students but has also provided them with the opportunity for continued professional development.

Karyn Probert – Programme Leader

kprobert@glos.ac.uk;

Nicky Burns – Programme Team

nburns@glos.ac.uk