

Staff Guide for supervising and assessing skills and procedures in pre-registration nursing

The [NMC \(2018\) Standards of proficiency for registered nurses](#) Annexes A and B provide a description of what all registered nurses should be able to demonstrate they can do at the point of registration in order to provide safe nursing care. Annex B specifies the nursing procedures that registered nurses must demonstrate that they are able to perform safely.

The NMC standards state at the point of registration, the registered nurse will be able to use evidence-based, best practice approaches to demonstrate procedures including:

2.2 Undertake **venepuncture and cannulation** and blood sampling, interpreting normal and common abnormal blood profiles and venous blood gases

2.4 **manage and monitor blood component transfusions**

2.5 manage and interpret cardiac monitors, infusion pumps, blood glucose monitors and other monitoring devices

11.7 administer injections using intramuscular, subcutaneous, intradermal and **intravenous routes** and manage injection equipment

Other skills and procedures can be practised at any time under the direct supervision of the Practice Supervisor/Assessor (PS/PA). If the student has not had the theory in university, then the registrant competent in the skill **who considers it appropriate for the student to undertake** should support the student to review the underpinning theoretical knowledge and evidence base before observing and/or participating in the skill. Overall accountability and responsibility for undergraduate involvement in supervised practice in Practice Learning Environments (PLEs) is the responsibility of the PS/PA.

A West of Scotland group was set up to examine venepuncture, cannulation, blood component and IV route medicine administration and determine where and how they are taught within programmes, and how students can be supported to safely demonstrate these skills and procedures in simulation or in practice.

Evidencing and Demonstrating Venepuncture and Cannulation

Prior to Year 3/Part 3 PLEs, students will have completed:

- Theory - Students from all fields of nursing will complete the West of Scotland education package for cannulation and venepuncture.
- Simulation - “*Demonstrated safely through simulation whilst acknowledging own limitations*” column in the student’s Scottish Practice Assessment Document (PAD) must be signed by a suitably prepared practitioner prior to undertaking supervised practice. OU students may undertake their simulated learning within a health board setting.

In Year 3 / Part 3 PLEs, students (all fields) can undertake cannulation and venepuncture under the **direct supervision** of a healthcare practitioner, who is competent in these skills. Students should log supervised practice in the ‘West of Scotland cannulation and / or venepuncture record of supervised practice’ document. The PS/PA can also sign the record of supervised practice and the appropriate annexes in the PAD under ‘*Demonstrated safely in practice whilst acknowledging own limitations*’.

Evidencing and demonstrating Intravenous medicines administration

Prior to Year 3/Part 3 PLEs, students will have completed

- Theory and IV calculation numeracy test - students will have undertaken and completed the West of Scotland IV medicines education package.
- Simulation - “*Demonstrated safely through simulation whilst acknowledging own limitations*” column in the student’s Scottish Practice Assessment Document (PAD) must be signed by a suitably prepared practitioner prior to undertaking supervised practice. OU students may undertake their simulated learning within a health board setting.

In Year 3 / Part 3 PLEs, students (all fields) may draw up, calculate, check, prepare and administer IV medicines, via the **peripheral** route only, under the **direct supervision** of a registered healthcare practitioner, who is competent in IV medicines administration. This includes bolus administration and administration via an infusion device. Students should log supervised practice in the ‘West of Scotland IV medicines administration record of supervised practice’. The PS/PA can also sign the record of supervised practice and appropriate annexes in the student’s PAD under ‘*Demonstrated safely in practice whilst acknowledging own limitations*’.

Evidencing and demonstrating blood component transfusions

In Year 3/Part 3, students from all fields may participate in blood transfusion administration under **direct supervision**, once they have provided evidence of completion of the following mandatory TURAS modules:

- Learn Blood Transfusion (LBT): safe transfusion practice (or LBT: safe transfusion practice for paediatrics for child field students)
- LBT: Acute transfusion reaction
- LBT: Consent for transfusion