OPAL Technical Guide 7 (Mentor)

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How to complete assessment of NMC competencies (Practice Assessor).

During most placements students will be undertaking assessment in the 18 NMC competencies which are in the Knowledge and skills section of OPAL. It is good practice to ascertain from the student when their submission date is and what they are expected to complete in the placement. In some instances students are expected to complete all assessment in one long placement (normally only in year one) but most placements students will be expected to complete at least four competencies as they will have further placements later in the year.

| | e Practice sment for ing | Change Password Log out Contact I |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Home Help & Resources | Knowledge and Skills Each competence below needs to be signed and marked by your Practice Assessor will be able to view the score and any comments made by your assessor. | . As they have been signed you |
| Forgotten Username and Password | Domain 1: Professional Values | - |
| View / Print Logbook | 1. Must act first and foremost to care for and safeguard the public. | Practice Assessor signed on |
| << Back | Domain 1: Professional Values 2. Must practice autonomously and be responsible and accountable for safe, compassionate, person-centred, evidence-based nursing that respects and maintains dignity and human rights. | – Practice Assessor signed on |
| | Domain 1: Professional Values 3. Must show professionalism and integrity and work within recognised professional, ethical and legal frameworks. | – Practice Assessor signed on |
| | Domain 1: Professional Values 4. Must work in partnership with other health and social care professionals and agencies, service users, their carers and families in all settings, including the community, ensuring that decisions about care are shared. | – Practice Assessor signed on |
| | Domain 2: Communication and Interpersonal Skills 5. Must use excellent communication and interpersonal skills. | – Practice Assessor signed on |
| | Domain 2: Communication and Interpersonal Skills 6. Communication must always be safe, effective, compassionate and respectful. | – Practice Assessor signed on |

From the student dashboard click on the term **View** next to the heading '**Knowledge and skills'** in the areas for assessment box on the dashboard (Tip you will need to click on the year tab with the * to access the student dashboard if it does not appear). You will then see the knowledge and skills section open. The first section is an overview of the 18 competencies. In the screen shot above we can see one competency has been assessed and the others are yet to be completed. This section is merely a record and you need to scroll down to reach the sections to complete.

The first section you see is the assessment criteria which are set out within the competencies to assist the practice assessor when grading each competency.

OPAL Technical Guide 7 (Mentor)



| | 0-1996 | Unable to apply principles of rafe and effective practice Inadequate application of knowledge even with frequent prompting Unable to rate theory to practice. Unable to perform skill to an acceptable level Inapprograms verbal communication Unable to demonstrate person-centred compassionate care |
|--|---------|---|
| Domain 3: Nursing Practice and Decision-Making 12. All practice should be informed by the best available evidence and comply with local and national guidelines. • Understand how to practise safely by being aware of the correct use, limitations and hazards of common | 20-39% | Limited ability to apply principles of safe and effective practice Inadequate application of knowledge even with frequent prompting Unable to perform skills to an acceptable level. Little veldence of ability to relate theory and practice Inconsistent communication skills which demonstrate care and compassion |
| interventions, including nursing activities, treatments, and the use of medical devices and equipment. Must be able to evaluate their use, report any concerns promptly through appropriate channels and modify care where necessary to maintain safety. They must contribute to the collection of local and national data and formulation of policy on risks, hazards and adverse outcomes. | 40-49% | Basic application of knowledge requiring some prompts Some evidence of ability to relate theory to practice Needs frequent direct supervision and guidance in application of skills Able to communicate clarity demonstrating care and compassion |
| Have an understanding of their role in preventing maltreatment, and safeguarding children and young people. They must work closely with relevant agencies and professionals, and know when and how to identify and refer those at risk or experiencing harm. | 50-59% | Is able to apply knowledge to simple situations Can relate knowledge to patients care Needs occusional direct support and guidance in the application of skills shb to identify non-verbal cues |
| ocation: candie ward v Grade awarded for Knowledge and Skill: v ate of Assessment: Image: Constraint of the second | 60-69% | Knowledge is usually accurate and can be applied to more than one situation, Can begin to identify alternatives Performs technical and effectively and safely with minimal supprvision Uses non-verbal of an unication effectively |
| No this is not complete yet ationale for grade awarded and or comments: Edit * | 70-79% | Able to articulate knowledge in relation to individual patients Can give a attionale for care given Excellent execution of a range of skills Able to modify intervention in relation to the client's needs Able to communicate clearly in a variety of complex situations |
| B / ▲·▲·⋿ Ξ Ξ ≡ Ε·Ε·Ξ Ξ ♥ | 80-100% | Able to articulate and apply knowledge in relation to individual patients Knowledge is demonstrated without sompting |
| Words: 0 | | hat mentor is to be replaced by |
| Save | shot | Assessor/Supervisor in this scree |

Domain 2: Communication and Interpersonal Skills – Knowledge & Skills Grading Grid

Each individual competency is set out as per screen shot below the assessment criteria. The competency and indicators are listed and below this and are divided into the four domains set out by the NMC. Each competency that is still to be assessed the practice assessor will see that the sections are open and ready to have information added (see arrows).

- 1. The Location of the assessment is automatically entered, and the practice assessor need only select the date.
- 2. There is a drop down box to set the % grade awarded using the criteria.
- 3. The text box allows the practice assessor to enter the rationale for the grade.
- 4. By selecting 'Yes confirmed as signed' and clicking save will <u>lock</u> the grade and comments.
- 5. If you wish to edit comments before completing the assessment click on 'No this is not complete yet' and then click save and you will be able to edit the entry later. Remember after completing the editing select 'Yes confirmed as signed' to lock and complete the assessment.

In some cases a second signature is required and OPAL recognises where this is the case and takes action. Where a grade lower than 40% or higher than 70% is recorded the box for a practice assessor/supervisor to sign.

A frequently asked question is how many competencies a student should complete in their placement. The key question is when is the OPAL PAT to be submitted as this placement may be the last one before submission meaning the remaining competencies should be assessed. If however it is the first of two or more placements at the start of a year the

OPAL Technical Guide 7 (Mentor)



student may be required to not undertake all competencies in the placement. It is advisable to discuss with the student at initial interview what is required as they will have been briefed by their academic assessor.

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