



South African Nursing Council
Regulating nursing, advocating for the public

GUIDELINES ON INTERPROVINCIAL CLINICAL PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

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DEFINITIONS

“Clinical accompaniment” means a structured or unstructured and planned or unplanned process by a lecturer, clinical facilitator or preceptor who accompanies the student to facilitate directed assistance and support at the clinical facility, to ensure the achievement of the programme outcomes;

“clinical education and training” means exposure of students to experiential learning in a range of settings in which the theoretical component is correlated with practice;

“clinical facility” means a continuum of services to promote health and provide care to health care users, approved by the Council, as such, and used for education and training;

“Clinical facilitator” means a registered nurse with a nursing education qualification who assists the student to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for practice within the clinical environment;

“clinical learning opportunities” means the range of learning experiences, including work integrated and service learning, available in a health care setting. It may also include other experiential learning sites where a learner/student has the opportunity to gain required clinical skills;

“clinical placement” means the period spent by a student in an approved clinical facility and other experiential learning sites to ensure that the outcomes of the programme are achieved;

“interprovincial clinical placement” means placement of students to a clinical facility that is situated in a province different from where the Nursing education institution is located;

Mentor” means a professional person who possesses relevant expertise, who will be able to share knowledge, skills and values; and model behaviour to an individual with less experience in a specific field;

“nursing education institution” means any Nursing Education Institution accredited by Council in terms of the Nursing Act; and

“preceptor” means an experienced Registered Nurse/Midwife who provides day-to-day supervision during clinical practice and facilitates the application of theory to practice for students.

ACRONYMS

NEI – Nursing Education Institution

SANC – South African Nursing Council

1. PURPOSE

To outline the guidelines to be adhered to by Nursing Education Institutions (NEIs) when submitting applications to the South African Nursing Council (SANC) for approval of interprovincial placement of students for experiential learning.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In terms of Conditions and requirements for accreditation of an institution as a Nursing Education Institution (NEI) as outlined in the Regulations relating to the accreditation of institutions as Nursing Education Institutions (Government Notice No. R 173 of 08. March 2013), the NEI:
 - 2.1.1 Should have a formal agreement(s) with one or more of the relevant authorities responsible for clinical facilities, which address the clinical learning opportunities, clinical accompaniment and supervision needs of learners placed in such health services;
 - 2.1.2 Should have access to sufficient clinical facilities that are appropriate for the achievement of the outcomes of the programme; and
 - 2.1.3 There should be evidence of quality control mechanisms over clinical education and training.
- 2.2 Students are expected to be placed in clinical facilities that have been approved by the South African Nursing Council (SANC) and these clinical facilities are normally in the Province where the NEI is located;
- 2.3 Nurse Educators are expected to do clinical accompaniment to all the students irrespective of availability of clinical facilitators, mentors and preceptors;
- 2.4 The clinical facilities should be accessible to students in terms of public transport between the NEI and the clinical facilities; and
- 2.5. All undergraduate programmes are offered on **full-time** study.

3. Requirements

3.1. A Nursing Education and Training institution that intends to apply for interprovincial clinical placement of students shall submit an application which complies with the following criteria:

3.1.1. The letter of support from the respective Provincial Department of Health for utilization of public health establishments as per circular 1 of 2018 issued by the National Department of Health;

3.1.2. Memoranda of Agreements between the NEI and clinical facilities in the respective province where the students will be placed must be formalised as per circular 8 of 2013 issued by the Council;

3.1.3. Students should be placed only in clinical facilities that have been approved by SANC;

3.1.4. Evidence of appointment of clinical facilitators responsible for clinical education and training in the clinical facilities to supervise students in line with the requirements of the programme;

3.1.5. In instances where there are insufficient clinical learning opportunities in the allocated clinical placement areas, students should be rotated in order to ensure that the clinical learning outcomes of the programme are achieved; and

3.1.6. Evidence of communication and monitoring between the NEI and the clinical facility; and

3.1.7 Evidence of meetings between nurse educators, clinical facilitators and preceptors.

NB. SANC reserves the right to withdraw such approval if monitoring and evaluation reports reveal that the clinical requirements of relevant programmes are not achieved.

In addition, the NEIs should comply with the following general guidelines

4. Clinical education and training environments

4.1 Clinical facilities should comply with the safety, quality and educational criteria and requirements of both SANC and the National Department of Health, including risk assessment, indemnity and current immunisation requirements;

4.2 It is expected that all students at approved clinical facilities should contribute towards an environment that is conducive to learning by displaying professionalism, ethics and competency to promote quality;

4.3 NEIs should identify meaningful clinical learning opportunities in every area of practice and provide the clinical facilities with the expected clinical learning outcomes;

4.4. NEIs and clinical facilities must adhere to the approved numbers for placement of students to ensure purposeful and sufficient learning opportunities in line with the programme outcomes;

4.5. The approved clinical facilitator to student ratio is in line with the education and training guidelines for the relevant programme;

4.6. The clinical facilities should be **monitored** by the NEI for change in learning opportunities from time to time and report to SANC; and

4.7 It is advisable that clinical facilities keep a record of attendance of both students and clinical facilitators.

5. Clinical Placements

Students may be placed in a range of clinical facilities that include but are not limited to:

- 5.1. District hospitals (small, medium and large)
- 5.2 Regional hospitals
- 5.3 Tertiary hospitals
- 5.4 Academic hospitals
- 5.5 Central hospitals
- 5.6 Primary health care clinics, Community health centres and mobile clinics
- 5.7 Midwifery obstetric units
- 5.8 Approved health and related services provided by the private sector.

6. Clinical facilitation

- 6.1 It is expected that an environment that is conducive to learning in terms of role modelling, quality of care, competency, professional and ethical role modelling is ensured by both the NEI and the clinical facility;
- 6.2. A qualification in nursing education including registration as assessor and moderator is compulsory for Clinical Facilitators;
- 6.3. It is essential for Preceptors to have a facilitator's or preceptorship course including the assessor's course;
- 6.5. The Clinical Facilitators, and Preceptors responsible for the clinical education and training, accompaniment and assessment of students should have knowledge and understanding of the education and training guidelines for the relevant programme;
- 6.6. Opportunities should be created for both individual and group facilitation; and
- 6.7. Accompaniment records should be maintained for all the activities and submitted to SANC as and when required.