

Funding Guidance for Specialist Community Nurse Education (SPQ) and Education to Support the delivery of Care in the Community (Multi professional)



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Post Registration Education Funding for Advanced and Extended Practice Guidance

Introduction

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) is responsible for commissioning education and training to meet the needs of the NHS in Wales. Development of the workforce within community and primary care settings includes nurses undertaking specialist Practice Qualifications/community health degrees and Allied Health Professionals and Pharmacists who work alongside and with community nursing teams/GP Practices. The notes which follow explain the detailed arrangements for the funding of this training on an all Wales basis.

Funding Overview

Funding for community education is in three parts:

1. Part time funding for completion of the programme over a two year period
2. Foundation module funding for Community/Practice Nurses to complete the SPQ or BSc/PG Dip community health studies "fundamentals of community practice module" on a modular basis
3. Additional module funding for:
 - o Community/Practice Nurses to complete the SPQ or BSc/PG Dip community health studies programme on a modular basis
 - o Community/Practice Nurses to undertake additional education to develop additional knowledge and skills to extend their scope of practice
 - o Allied health Professionals (AHP's) and Healthcare Scientists (HCS's) working within a community or primary care setting supporting services delivered within these environments to undertake education to develop additional knowledge and skills.

Part 1 and 2 Funding

The specialist community nursing degree courses that HEIW currently commission and fund for NHS Wales and GP employed staff are as follows:

- District Nursing
- Practice Nursing
- Community Paediatric Nursing
- Community Psychiatric Nursing
- Community Learning Disability Nursing

Students can undertake specialist community nursing education on a part time or modular basis to achieve either a Specialist Practice Qualification (SPQ) as recognised by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or BSc/PG Dip Community Health Studies degree. Part time and modular courses will only be funded by HEIW **up to the point of achieving** the specialist practitioner qualification/BSc/PG Dip Community Health Studies. Individuals that wish to complete a third year resulting in a full MSc Community Health Studies degree will need to make alternative funding arrangements.

The part time route is undertaken on a part time basis and usually completed over a period of 2 years. The modular route allows students to undertake one or more specific taught modules over an undefined period of time. Students following the modular route complete the Fundamentals of Community practice, as their first module. Following completion of the fundamentals of community practice module students can choose whether to complete other module(s) or exit from the programme.

On successful completion of the necessary modules (120 credits) and clinical hours, students can attain a SPQ (if they meet the SPQ requirements) or a BSc/PG Dip award in Community Health Studies.

All prospective applicants for the specialist community nursing course should ensure that they have obtained the agreement of their employer to their release for training prior to submitting an application for a place on a course with a Higher Education Institution (HEI) in Wales.

Part 3 Funding

Traditionally the community health funding has been confined for nurses to complete a recognised community health degree. However, with the direction of travel for health care working towards care closer to home, and with the increase in the delivery of services by other professionals in the community in response to this trajectory and key influences and policy drivers like "Designed for Life" and more recently "A Healthier Wales" (2016) and "Prudent Healthcare" (2015).

It is imperative that development of the community AHP and HCS workforce is also a consideration along with development of community nursing teams, which include diversifying the skill mix and professions that form those teams. Therefore, the additional modules funding will fund education for these professional groups as well as nurses to develop additional knowledge and skills to extend their scope of practice.

Selection

Each Education Provider that HEIW contracts with to deliver these education programmes will be notified annually of the number of NHS Wales funded students commissioned for their program in order for them to recruit up to this number. HEIW identifies the specific number of places to be recruited to the fundamental of care module for each speciality e.g. District Nursing, Community Paediatric nursing etc. with additional capacity available to support staff to undertake a second, third and fourth module in order to achieve an academic award.

The Education Provider should ensure that students are selected for the course based on the selection criteria jointly agreed between the Education Provider and the employing Organisation and include appropriate representation from employing organisations on the selection panel.

The Education Providers will annually provide HEIW with a report detailing all individuals that have accessed this funding

Data Protection

All staff in receipt of funding agree to the education provider they are studying with sharing their personal information with HEIW in the annual report for the purposes of monitoring. Health boards, Trusts and HEI's must incorporate privacy notices into their application process to ensure compliance with GDPR.

Registration

Throughout the duration of their course, individual students **MUST** maintain their professional registration. Local arrangements should be in place to ensure this. Students and their employer are jointly responsible for ensuring their professional registration remains up to date throughout the period of their course.

Travel Expenses

Please note, **course fees only are funded** by HEIW. Any associated travel costs will not be reimbursed.

Contact details

If you have any queries or need further explanation then please email HEIW.EdCommissioning@wales.nhs.uk or ETfinance.HEIW@wales.nhs.uk

