



## 28. NORTHERN IRELAND

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A model of support for existing sign off mentors



It is well reported that mentors are the gate keepers to the nursing profession (Andrews et al 2010, Brown et al 2012). Their decisions will have far reaching outcomes both for the profession and the safe and effective care of patients and clients. The introduction of the Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards for Learning and Assessment in Practice (NMC 2006, 2008) set in motion a process of developmental changes to the mentorship role. They clearly define the knowledge and experience a mentor should have before they can make judgements about whether a student has achieved the required standards of proficiency for safe and effective practice and for sign off mentors to confirm that the student is fit for entry to the NMC register.

A group of Practice Education Facilitators in Northern Ireland developed an innovative programme which helped to prepare their sign off mentors for this new role.

The methods of delivery combined a blended approach using lecture and group supervision

Learning outcomes: The sign off mentors will:

- Have a clear understanding of the accountability and responsibility of their role.
- Be able to assess, provide feedback and create action plans.
- Be able to make sound judgments as to a nursing students knowledge, skill and attitude to be fit to practice safely.

Evaluation: Considering the challenges imposed by releasing staff attendance at all sessions were favourable. The sign off mentors valued the recognition and support for their role and positively welcomed this model of support. What was evident was the opportunity for peer support in similar situations; this would merit the recommendations as outlined in the NMC standards for learning and assessment (2006, 2008). Due to its success the programmes now runs alongside all the final practice placements.



## 37. SRI LANKA

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Attitude and practice regarding MRSA among BSc nursing students in Sri Lanka

Objective: The objective of the present study was to assess the attitudes and practices regarding MRSA among second, third and fourth year B.Sc. nursing students in University of Sri Jayewardenepura, University of Ruhuna and University of Peradeniya.

Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted among 252 B.Sc. Nursing students at the above 3 universities. A validated self-administered questionnaire was used for data collection. Attitude and Practice categorized separately as poor, good and excellent. Data analysis was done in the SPSS Version 16.0 and Chi square test was used to determine statistical significance.

Results: Among the total of 252 students, nearly 45% were from University of Ruhuna, 28% were from University of Sri Jayewardenepura and 27% were from University of Peradeniya. The majority were females (71.1 %) and 28.9% were males. Out of the 252 participants, the majority had excellent attitude (59.5%) regarding MRSA whereas remaining participants had good attitude (40.5%) except for a very few students who had poor level of practice level (2%). There was a significant association between gender and the attitude level ( $p=0.016$ ). There was no significant association between attitude level and academic year of the students. Nearly 46 % of students and almost 52 % of students had good and excellent levels of practice respectively regarding MRSA. There was no significant association between practice level and gender of the students. Nearly 52.5% of fourth year students, 54.8% third year students and 47.9% second year students had excellent practice level regarding MRSA. There was no statistically significant association between academic year and the practice regarding MRSA.

Conclusion: According to the findings of this study, the majority of the B.Sc. Nursing undergraduates of universities of Sri Jayewardenepura, Ruhuna and Peradeniya possess an excellent level of attitude and practice regarding Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus.