

## Adult nursing September 14 cohorts onwards

### **Skills Development Sheets (formerly Skills Summary Sheets)**

Skills Development sheets (SDS) may be used as supporting evidence for achievement of NMC competencies and Essential Skills Clusters (ESC). If used the sheets should be kept as part of the students portfolio and made available to a mentor. SDS can be handwritten or completed electronically.

### ***How do ESC's link with NMC competencies?***

Some competencies cannot be achieved without evidence of achievement in an associated skill.

To pass an NMC competence each student is required to demonstrate how underpinning knowledge is applied in practice and how this knowledge informs how care is delivered to individuals in the health and social care system. This can be achieved in a variety of ways through discussion, observation, patient and carer feedback, question and answer, reflection, supervision of learning days and SDS.

It is important that students demonstrate a variety of ways of achieving an NMC competence and ESC. Therefore the SDS should form just a small part of the evidence required to achieve the NMC competence and ESC.

### ***Are references required?***

Yes; each skill or competence requires underpinning knowledge not just to perform the skill but to demonstrate depth of understanding.

References are required to demonstrate that the evidence provided reflects best practice, is current and that is not simply a description of how to do the skill. References should be from a variety of sources to demonstrate breadth of knowledge.

### ***How many SDS are required?***

Mentors can choose a minimum of 3 skills per placement that require the completion of SDS. Mentors may choose more dependent on the placement type, or if the students' level of knowledge appears poor, however it is not an expectation that every skill will require a SDS. Students should be able to articulate knowledge and give explanation without requiring the completion of a SDS.

### ***Why have the requirements to complete an SDS changed from previous cohorts?***

Three main reasons:

1. It has been recognized that mentor signoff of SDS takes a lot of valuable mentor time
2. Students often simply replicate the Marsden Manual in completing the SDS and do not demonstrate breadth of understanding.
3. In some cases we have noted that students share their completed SDS (before mentor sign off) with their peers thus the SDS presented is not necessarily the students own work.