The NMC consultation is worth making time for

Some consultations can feel like token exercises, with many believing that those asking the questions have already made up their minds. Why spend your valuable time completing multiple-choice questionnaires and invitations to comment? However, taking part in the consultation launched by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) this week will be well worth the effort.

Nurses and midwives have a genuine opportunity to shape the new system of revalidation. There is no consensus among regulators, professional leaders and politicians on what form it should take. So it is worth ten minutes of your time to fill in the questionnaire and add your comments.

One potentially contentious area surrounds third-party feedback. The NMC would like to know who should have a say on whether a nurse or midwife should be allowed to stay on the register. Nurse managers? Other healthcare professionals, such as doctors? Nurses and midwives? Health service managers and politicians on what form it should take. So it is worth ten minutes of your time to fill in the questionnaire and add your comments.

A replacement for the current system of revalidation – post-registration education and practice (PREP) – is overdue. There is little wrong with the principles that underpin PREP, requiring registrants to complete 450 hours of practice and 35 hours of continuing professional development every three years. However, the lack of audit means the system is now devoid of credibility.

From this week subscribers may notice that Nursing Standard arrives on Thursday rather than Wednesday. This is due to a change in how the magazine is distributed. Sorry to make you wait, but you can still access all our content on a Wednesday by visiting www.nursing-standard.co.uk

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