The NMC wants to see evidence of nurses learning from complaints

By Jennifer Sprinks

Negative patient feedback may have to be recorded by nurses to show how they have used it to improve their practice as part of re-registering with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

The nursing regulator is considering the requirement in early proposals for a new revalidation system, which will replace post-registration education and practice (PREP) in 2015.

Consultation on the model began this week. It will require nurses to demonstrate every three years that they are complying with the code of conduct by submitting third-party feedback from work appraisals, and comments from patients and colleagues when applying to renew their registration.

Active reflection

The NMC is considering requiring nurses to demonstrate how they have actively used negative patient responses to improve their nursing care.

‘We want to avoid the situation where a nurse only collects positive feedback,’ said NMC director of continued practice Katerina Kolyva.

‘We are more interested in how a nurse or midwife has reflected on the feedback and used it constructively in their learning and to inform their development.’

Dr Kolyva said she recognises that there are registrants who do not provide direct clinical care and so an alternative to patient feedback may be required. Nursing lecturers or teachers could submit feedback they have received from students, she said.

However, Colchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust falls prevention sister Carrie Tyler said: ‘Revalidation should be linked to the appraisal and not to negative feedback from patients. If we get appraisals right and make them more meaningful then we would not need anything else.’

Dr Kolyva said she recognises there are concerns among nurses that their employers’ failure to conduct regular and effective appraisals could cause them to fall foul of revalidation requirements.

‘Nurses would have to raise their concerns about their employers’ lack of appraisals with us. Furthermore, if we were to fail someone’s registration because they did not have all the evidence for the revalidation submission, they could appeal.’

Employers in at least two UK countries will pilot the NMC’s model from spring 2015. Dr Kolyva said several nursing directors have expressed an interest in the pilot.

Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust chief nurse Eileen Sills said she has approached the NMC expressing an interest in trialling the model.

The NMC will publish a more detailed code of conduct and revalidation model for consultation in May and a final document will be ready in December this year.

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Matthew gets in shape for Great Wall of China adventure

Nurse consultant Matthew Hodson is in training for a week-long trek along the Great Wall of China to raise funds for the British Lung Foundation.

Mr Hodson (pictured), who works for Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in east London, will walk sections of the 5,000km wall – often steep and hazardous terrain – in April for up to eight hours a day.

Named Nursing Standard’s 2013 Nurse of the Year for setting up a specialist drop-in clinic for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Mr Hodson aims to raise £10,000.

‘The charity walk will raise awareness of lung disease and other respiratory conditions such as asthma and obstructive sleep apnoea,’ he said.