



Students reporting incidents of unsafe or unprofessional practice when on clinical placement

Process: This document outlines the procedure to be followed when a student observes unsafe or unprofessional practice when on clinical placement.

Purpose: To protect patients, clients and students within the placement and to support students and placement staff by providing a comprehensive process to follow.

As a student nurse or student midwife, you have a duty to report any concerns regarding your placements which put the safety of the people in your care or the public at risk.

The code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives stipulates:

- 'you must act without delay if you believe that you, a colleague or anyone else may be putting someone at risk' (NMC 2008:P5)
- 'you must inform someone in authority if you experience problems that prevent you working within this code or other nationally agreed standards' (NMC 2008:P5)

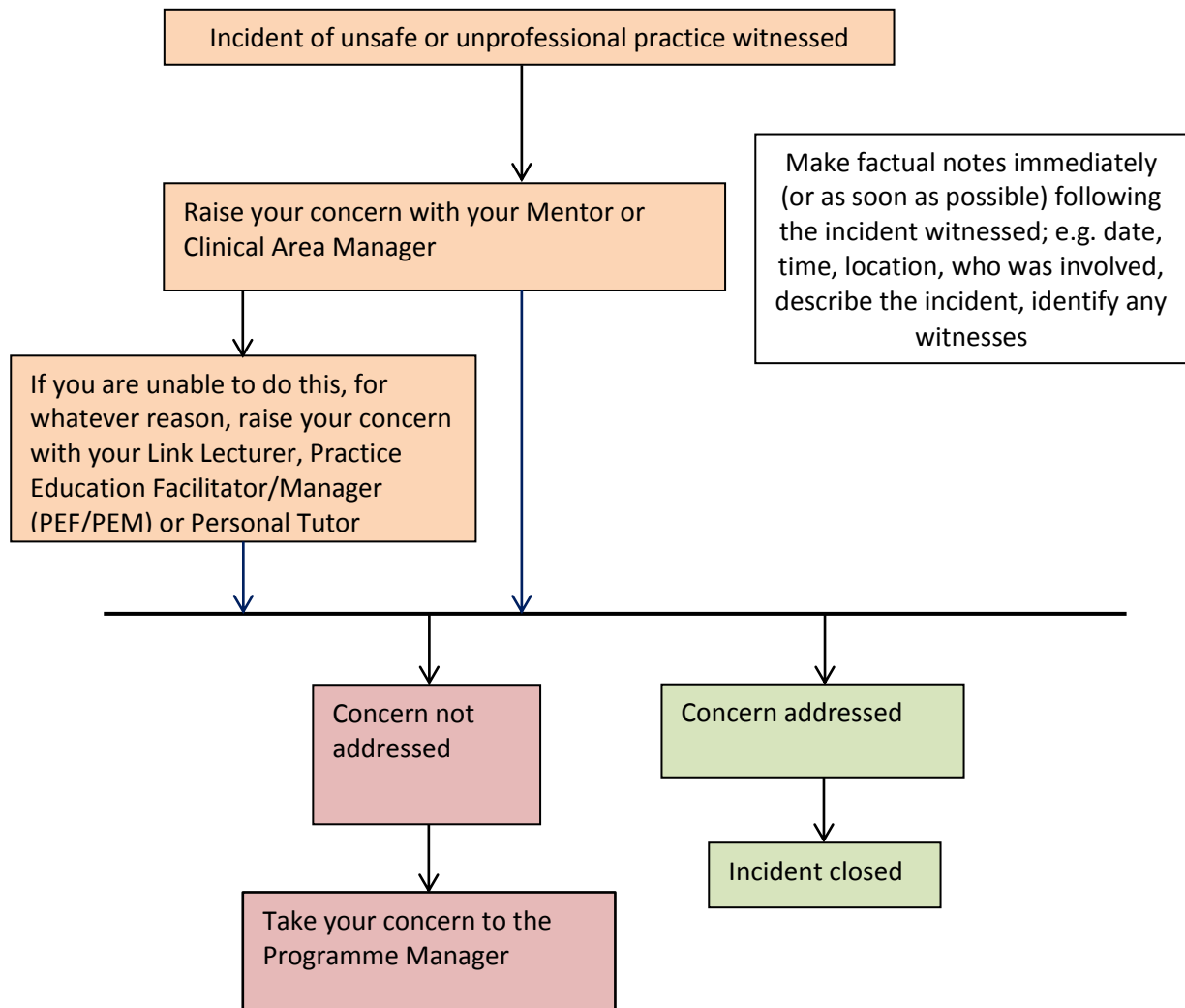
The principles in this guidance are applicable to you and are underpinned by the *Guidance on professional conduct for nursing and midwifery students*. This states that you should:

- 'inform your mentor or tutor immediately if you believe that you, a colleague or anyone else may be putting someone at risk of harm' (NMC 2011:P18)
- 'seek help immediately from an appropriately qualified professional if someone for whom you are providing care has suffered harm for any reason' (NMC 2011:P18)
- 'seek help from your mentor or tutor if people indicate that they are unhappy about their care or treatment' (NMC 2011:P18)

Examples of unsafe or unprofessional practice may include:

- issues regarding staff conduct, such as unprofessional attitudes or behaviour
- physical or verbal abuse of patients
- failing to care for patients with dignity and respect

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Should this lead to further investigation you may be required to write a statement and/or be interviewed regarding the incident. Should either of these be required you must contact your Programme Manager so that the School can be present and provide you with appropriate support and guidance.

The code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives (NMC 2008).

Guidance on professional conduct for nursing and midwifery students (NMC 2011).

Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998

Mark Jones
Senior Lecturer & Head of Practice

Dr Julie Cooper Lecturer
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