Roles of staff and students in clinical placements

Student supervision in the clinical learning environment will be different and reflects the variation of placement type. There is an expectation that all RNs and RMs will be involved in the facilitation of learning.

DEU model

A clinical facilitator (CF) is assigned to each DEU. A CF is employed by the University to facilitate student learning.

The role of the clinical facilitator involves assisting student transfer of learning, monitoring student progress and liaison with clinical staff.

The clinical facilitator is expected to be present in the ward/unit/agency twice a week at each end of the week, depending on student and staff requirements. Due to rotating shifts, 1st year students may not have contact with their CF in the DEU. The student, however, may contact the CF on campus should s/he feel the need to discuss any issues. Students in some DEUs, for example RDNS, will have alternative arrangements to meet with their CF.

If a student is having difficulties in meeting the criteria of the learning objectives/ANMC competencies it is important for them to contact the CF to negotiate appropriate assistance. Students or DEU staff who have difficulty contacting their CF are encouraged to contact the topic coordinator.

The CF focuses on coordination, liaison, consultation, reporting and evaluation of the venue. The CF role incorporates:

1 consultation with CNC[NUM/CNUM, LN and clinical staff before, during and after clinical placements
2 sharing and discussing with students expectations of performance
3 communicating concerns about student to student, LN, clinicians, topic coordinators and CNC[NUM/CNUM
4 formal evaluation of student’s performance in consultation with LN and clinical staff
5 collaboration with the LN and the CNC to implement strategies in the management of students at risk
6 implementation of strategies for effective problem solving in collaboration with the LN and the CNC in relation to student learning/experiences
7 evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the DEU with respect to the aims and objectives of current students’ learning needs
8 Supporting (and at times teaching) the staff employed in the DEU in their role as clinician educators
9 assisting students in the:
   • consolidation of a professional vocabulary and their ‘socialisation’ into a professional role
   • transference of knowledge and skills and exploration of links between theory and practice
   • application of rules and general principles by encouraging the verbalisation and analysis of their experiences
   • development of communication, clinical reasoning and clinical skills
   • ability to handle ambiguity of clinical data and recognise the complexity of interacting factors inherent in clinical decision making
   • monitoring of achievement of ANMC competencies.

Role of the DEU liaison nurse (LN)
Each DEU has the opportunity to appoint an RN from the unit to the position of DEU liaison.
This position requires the clinician to:
1 act as liaison:
   – for students between ward staff and the clinical facilitator (CF)
   – with CNC re ward needs
   – with ward staff re students’ role, function and progress within the DEU
   – with CF re student progress.
organise student experiences in routine nursing care:
- allocate students to RN or RMs, student peers and patients
- arrange student rosters and liaise with the CF.

anticipate and organise extra experiences for students in relation to their patients’ care and in collaboration with the RN or RM supervising the student, i.e. endoscopy clinic, stoma therapy, theatre and community agencies.

provide orientation days:
- for 2nd and 3rd year students on their first day (i.e. a maximum of four days per semester)
- meet with 1st year students each morning to establish learning objectives.

organise the accreditation of students in certain skills, as required by the health care agency and in collaboration with the CF, e.g. blood glucose testing.

maintain a record of student attendance.

assist the CNC/CMC and CF with written evaluations of student progress as necessary.

encourage other staff members to participate in student teaching and take direct responsibility for the supervision of some students.

Role of the clinical facilitator for block placement students

This position requires the clinician to:

1. act as liaison for students between:
   a. ward staff
   b. the CNC re student learning needs
   c. with ward staff re students’ role, clinical learning objectives and progress

2. consult with the topic coordinator re student progress
organise student experiences in nursing care:
  a allocate students to RNs to facilitate learning needs
  b maintain communication with topic coordinators regarding student matters.

3 anticipate and organise extra experiences for students in relation to patient care in collaboration with the RN supervising the student.

**Role of the clinical facilitator for midwifery students**

This position requires the clinician to:

1 act as liaison for students between
   - ward staff and the midwifery lecturers
   - the CMC re student learning needs
   - with ward staff re students’ role, clinical learning objectives and progress

2 consult with the topic coordinator re student progress

3 organise student experiences in midwifery care:
   - allocate students to RMs to facilitate learning needs
   - maintain communication with topic coordinators regarding student matters

3 anticipate and organise extra experiences for students in relation to the care of women and their babies in collaboration with the RM supervising the student.

**Responsibilities of the student**

The student, in conjunction with the RNs/RMs, LN and clinical facilitator will identify ongoing learning needs, strategies for meeting these needs, and continually evaluate his/her progress towards achieving identified needs. In particular the student is expected to:

- Establish a working relationship with the clinical team.
- Self-monitor progress towards achievement of objectives and ANMC competencies.
- Elicit feedback from clinical facilitator and clinician/s
• maintain communication with the clinical staff regarding the patients’ health status
• provide care consistent with the objectives outlined in the *Topic information/Topic details* booklet, under the direction of the RN/EN/RM to whom they are allocated
• be accountable to the RN or RM and the CNC/CMC for the care provided.