

Seminar 7: **The Midwifery Pan London Practice Assessment Strategy: an evidence based approach**

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In London and the South East of England, midwifery students from nine universities share practice areas in a large number of NHS Trusts. A standardised practice assessment document and assessment process was collaboratively developed in 2014, following the recognition of the challenges and complexities of managing the variety of assessment processes in shared placement areas, and the difficulties encountered in the grading of clinical competency. A project to develop a single approach to the assessment of student midwives in practice commenced in March 2014, funded by the three Health Education England Local Education and Training Boards in the region. Partnership working between the universities and clinical placement providers led to the creation of a standard holistic assessment process and a set of flexible practice documents so that implementation was possible within each of the midwifery curricula and placement allocation patterns. The Midwifery Pan London Practice Assessment Documents (MPLPADs) recognise the variation in university regulations, programme structures and diversity of clinical placements that exist in pre-registration midwifery programmes, whilst also ensuring that the NMC Standards for pre-registration midwifery education (NMC 2009) are met, including grading of practice performance.

The assessment process was developed utilising the best available evidence for the robust assessment of clinical competence and professionalism. A holistic approach has been adopted based on evidence of the student's performance, provided through a variety of sources. The grade awarded for overall performance is allocated through the use of a series of holistic rubrics to increase the objectivity and fairness of the assessment.

The implementation of the MPLPAD in 2015-16 has led to a consistent approach in assessing over 1,600 midwifery students in London. The aim of enhancing the reliability and validity of the judgments by sign-off mentors is currently being evaluated.