Stage 4 Learning Outcomes

Domain 1: Professional values and conduct of the nurse competences

*Knowledge and appreciation of the virtues of caring, compassion, integrity, honesty, respect*

*and empathy as a basis for upholding the professional values of nursing and identity as a nurse.*

On completion of the final practice placement26 for the FOURTH or FINAL27 year of the

programme, the student will demonstrate capacity to:

4.1.1 Practise safely:

• Adhere to best practice to ensure the safety of the person whilst protecting the

public, through the delivery of safe, ethical, reliable and competent nursing care

across the life continuum

• Adhere to principles of hand hygiene, infection prevention and control and

regulations governing these for care of the person in the health service setting

• Behave with integrity, honesty and within Irish and European legislation to uphold

the professional values of nursing

• Practise within her/his scope of professional practice with due regard for regulatory

and statutory requirements

• Challenge behaviour or health care practice that could compromise a person’s

safety, privacy or dignity, giving due regard to ethical and professional guidance on

safeguarding of vulnerable people

4.1.2 Practise compassionately

• Consistently support the person across the life continuum through practice that is

caring, kind, sensitive, holistic, impartial, and non-judgmental

• Demonstrate respect for the diversity, dignity, integrity and uniqueness of the person

through a collaborative partnership that recognises her/his autonomy

• Practise compassionately to facilitate, promote, support and optimise the health,

wellbeing, comfort and quality of life of persons whose lives are affected by altered

health, distress, disability, chronic disorders or life-limiting conditions

4.1.3 Practise professionally, responsibly and accountably

• Identify with the nursing team personal responsibility, level of authority and lines of

accountability within one’s scope of practice

• Take personal and professional accountability for own decisions, actions and for the

completion of delegated tasks

• Show personal responsibility through organising and documenting nursing

interventions safely and in accordance with policies, procedures and guidelines

• Accept responsibility for own limitations and for the enhancement of clinical

competence by undertaking continuing professional development

Domain 2: Nursing practice and clinical decision making competences

*Knowledge and understanding of the principles of delivering safe and effective nursing care*

*through the adoption of a systematic and problem-solving approach to developing and*

*delivering a person-centred plan of care based on an explicit partnership with the person and*

*his/her primary carer.*

On completion of the final practice placement for the FOURTH or FINAL year of the

programme the student, in partnership with the person, the primary carer and other health

professionals, will demonstrate the capacity to:

4.2.1 Assess the person’s nursing and health needs

• Apply an appropriate framework in a systematic manner when taking a

comprehensive nursing history. The history should accurately reflect the person’s

experience of altered health, their ability and developmental or life stage needs

• Analyse information collected through interviews, observations, physical and

psychosocial assessment and diagnostics tests to reach an accurate nursing

assessment, using an appropriate framework, of a person’s health care needs

• Recognise and interpret signs of normal and changing health care needs and

escalate to members of the multidisciplinary team when necessary

• Recognise signs of a life-limiting condition and assist the person and family to access

a specialist palliative care team

4.2.2 Plan and prioritise person-centred nursing care (including selecting interventions

based on best evidence and identification of desired goals with the person)

• Develop a clear and concise person-centred plan that incorporates the person’s

experience of altered health and expectation for recovery

• Plan nursing interventions with specific indicators for achievement of goals, applying

best available evidence based on principles of quality and safety

• Prioritise the person’s immediate and longer-term nursing and health care needs

through setting goals based on acuity whilst taking into account relevant physical,

psychological, social, spiritual, cultural and environmental factors

• Communicate plan of care and rationale for interventions clearly to the person,

primary carer and other health professionals

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4.2.3 Deliver person-centred nursing and clinical interventions, including health activities

• Obtain permission from and check the understanding of the person or nominee prior

to delivering nursing interventions

• Deliver person-centred nursing care safely through a range of nursing interventions

in accordance with the person’s plan of care

• Support and empower the person, through the provision of accurate and relevant

information, to make health and life choices for health promotion and screening,

recovery, resilience, self-management, wellbeing and social inclusion

• Assist the person to maintain his/her dignity, rights, independence and comfort

• Apply principles of health and safety including moving and handling, infection

prevention and control and emergency procedures

• Empower the person to maintain needs related to their activities of living

• Support a safe and comfortable environment to facilitate the person to promote

health, self-management and physical and emotional well-being

• Support a person with a life-limiting condition and his/her primary carers to adapt to

the transition to palliative care through the nursing management of uncomplicated

symptoms and liaison with palliative care teams

• Adhere to legislation and professional practice guidelines for the safe and effective

administration of medicines and other therapeutic interventions

• Utilise medical devices and technologies and clinical equipment safely, with

awareness of correct usage, limitations and hazards associated

• Adhere to best principles for risk assessment and hazard minimisation and take

relevant actions to manage risks safely

• Utilise information management technology safely to record personal data for clinical

decision making

4.2.4 Evaluate nursing care and undertake a comprehensive re-assessment:

• Collate a range of clinical observations, feedback from the person and other sources

of information to adjust the plan of nursing care through ongoing evaluation of its

effectiveness

• Gather additional data to evaluate planned priorities, goals, time frames and

interventions against actual outcomes, changes to the person’s condition, responses,

or situational needs

• Monitor and evaluate nursing interventions against evidence of best practice

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4.2.5 Utilise clinical judgement

• Make sound clinical judgements to adapt interventions to changing health needs

• Recognise and respond to early warning signs of critical changes in a person’s health

status

• Initiate life preserving measures in response to critical changes in a person’s health

status or in emergency situations

Domain 3: Knowledge and cognitive competences

*Knowledge and understanding of the health continuum, life and behavioural sciences and*

*their applied principles that underpin a competent knowledge base for nursing and healthcare*

*practice.*

On completion of the final practice placement for the FOURTH or FINAL year of the

programme, the student will demonstrate capacity to:

4.3.1 Practise from a competent knowledge base

• Apply current and relevant aspects of concepts and theory of nursing to care

planning, nursing interventions and health settings

• Apply current and relevant aspects of professional standards to the practice of

nursing

• Apply current and relevant knowledge of the structure and function of the human

body from the health and life sciences in nursing practice situations

• Recognise common physical, developmental, emotional and behavioural signs,

vulnerabilities and co-morbidities within the relevant division of nursing

• Apply current and relevant knowledge from the social and behavioural sciences in

nursing practice situations and settings

• Apply reasoning and relevant knowledge from the ethical theory to moral dilemmas

in day to day nursing practice

• Apply principles of quality and safety to audit and evaluate nursing and healthcare

practice

• Apply current and relevant aspects of national and international policies that

influence nursing practice and health care delivery

• Demonstrate and apply knowledge of legislation relevant in nursing practice

situations and settings

• Apply knowledge and understanding of current and relevant aspects of principles of

health information technology and nursing informatics in nursing practice

• Appraise, and apply as relevant, aspects of the nursing research process to enhance

the evidence base of nursing practice interventions

4.3.2 Use critical thinking and reflection to inform practice

• Develop analytical skills for problem-solving, critical thinking, reasoning, evaluation,

synthesis for application to nursing practice situations and interventions

• Develop personally and professionally through reflection to enhance resilience and

one’s own nursing practice

Domain 4: Communication and inter personal competences

*Knowledge, appreciation and development of empathic communication skills and techniques*

*for effective interpersonal relationships with people and other professionals in health care*

*settings.*

On completion of the final practice placement for the FOURTH or FINAL year of the

programme, the student will demonstrate capacity to:

4.4.1 Communicate in a person-centred manner

• Communicate in an effective, compassionate, age-appropriate, respectful, culturally

sensitive and non-discriminatory manner with the person and her/his primary carer

• Provide emotional support to the person undergoing nursing care and health

procedures/interventions, whilst respecting professional boundaries

• Empower the person and primary carer to follow appropriate policies to express

concerns about their experience of nursing and health procedures/interventions

• Utilise communication techniques and technologies to empower a person with

sensory, physical, emotional, behavioural or cultural communication difficulties to

express their needs

• Communicate with a person in a manner respects cultural diversity in health beliefs

and practices, health literacy, communication, language, translation or interpreting

needs

4.4.2 Communicate effectively with the health care team

• Accurately, concisely and clearly report, record, document and refer to the health

care team observations and information received in the nursing care giving process

• Communicate clearly and coherently verbally and in writing with other health and

social care professionals

• Negotiate with other health care and other professionals to ensure that the rights,

beliefs and wishes of the person are not compromised

• Respect the privacy of the person and confidentiality of information in the health

setting

• Use professional nursing language terms when reporting, documenting and

communicating to nursing and health care teams

• Share information with others in accordance with legal and professional requirements

in the interests of protection of the public

Domain 5: Management and team competences

*Using management and team competences in working for the person’s wellbeing, recovery,*

*independence and safety through recognition of the collaborative partnership between the*

*person, family and multidisciplinary health care team.*

On completion of the final practice placement for the FOURTH or FINAL year of the

programme, the student will demonstrate capacity to:

4.5.1 Practise collaboratively

• Work towards the person’s wellbeing, recovery, independence and safety through a

collaborative partnership between the person, family and multidisciplinary health and

social care team

• Collaborate effectively with other health care disciplines and members of the nursing

team in decision making and for continuity of care

4.5.2 Manage team, others and self safely

• Assess risk to a person’s safety, security, and well-being and health status through

promotion of a safe environment for each person including self

• Using information gained from a risk assessment, devise a safety plan for a person

encountered in the practice setting

• Assess priorities, manage time, caseload and resources safely and effectively

• Participate in audit and quality improvement initiatives and processes within the

health service setting

• Foster a supportive clinical work environment that facilitates a culture of

multidisciplinary trust, openness, respect, kindness, and compassion and safe

standards of health care

• Contribute to the learning experiences of other colleagues through provision of

support, supervision and facilitation of learning

• Demonstrate personal organisation and efficiency of own workload in undertaking

the person’s care

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Domain 6: Leadership potential and professional scholarship competences

*Developing professional scholarship through self-directed learning skills, critical questioning/*

*reasoning skills and decision-making skills in nursing as the foundation for lifelong professional*

*education, maintaining competency and career development.*

On completion of the final practice placement for the Stage 4 or FINAL year of the

programme, the student will demonstrate capacity to:

4.6.1 Develop leadership potential

• Lead and co-ordinate a team, delegating, supervising and monitoring nursing care

provision

• Exhibit awareness of self and of the impact of personal values and feelings in relation

to attitude development, professional conduct, response and reaction to events and

to the development of coping mechanisms, personal wellbeing and resilience

• Enhance personal performance of professional role through constructive use of

feedback, supervision and appraisal

• Reflect on and apply insights derived from aspects of daily nursing practice and

critical incidents to enhance self-awareness and personal competence

4.6.2 Develop professional scholarship

• Develop professional scholarship through self-directed learning skills, critical

questioning/reasoning skills and decision-making skills in nursing as the foundation

for lifelong professional education, maintaining competency and career development

• Recognise and respond to situations that require to be referred to experienced

colleagues, senior managers and other health care professionals

• Learn from experience to adapt nursing interventions and to update competence in

response to dynamically altering health environments

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