



INFORMATION FORM FOR MENTORS HIGHER DIPLOMA IN NURSING Pathway: Specialist Transition Structure Academic Year 2007/2008

Learners will be required to be linked with an appropriate practice-based mentor. There will be an orientation to the programme for managers and mentors that will give full details of the course and what is expected of those who take part.

Mentors to the Higher Diploma in Nursing programme have to be assigned before commencement of the course.

The mentor role will not be as predominant as in the pathways requiring assessment of clinical practice. However, mentor / manager support remains an integral part of the programme. The purpose of the mentor is to support, advise and challenge the student. The practice mentor is an appropriately qualified practitioner, who will offer support and guidance to the learner during practice experience. The practice mentor will normally have been qualified for a minimum of five years, have worked in the placement area for a minimum of six months, and met the standards required to mentor learners laid down by their appropriate professional body. Practice mentors require a strong clinical background in the specialist area and will be nominated by their immediate clinical nurse manager. It is desirable that practice mentors should be both academically and professionally advanced to the level of Higher Diploma and have completed a teaching and assessing course.

They will need to show evidence of maintaining and developing their own competence and have attended a "Practice Mentors' Preparation Programme" and show evidence of continuing professional development. In the context of the Specialist Transition Structure pathway the preparation programme may take place on site. Support in the context of portfolio development is the prime focus in preparation of those mentors as actual assessment of clinical competencies is not required. The practice mentor is required to attend annual updating and participate in ITT or Health Service Executive based initiatives which are designed to enhance the development of their role. The practice mentor will not be required to assess the academic content of the portfolio of evidence but will be required to confirm that the learner's portfolio of evidence is authentic and reflects the activities that the learner has experienced in the clinical area. The role of Mentor and Manger may be undertaken by one person.

If you are willing to take the role of Mentor for the applicant can you please complete below and return it to the learner who will enclose it with his/her application. Alternatively this may be returned by mail to the Admissions Office at the address below.

Please complete in Block Caps

Mentors Name	
Employment Address	
Telephone No	
Learner Name	

I understand the implications of *(please print learner name)* _____ undertaking the Higher Diploma in Nursing.

Mentors signature

Date

Please return completed form to the
Admissions Office, Institute of Technology, Tralee, Co Kerry

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