

Launch of Survey - Paramedic students and Newly Qualified Paramedics

Anxiety and self-confidence scale FAQ's

Understanding anxiety and self-confidence in clinical decision making of third year Paramedic students and Newly Qualified Paramedics who were affected by placement disruption during the COVID Pandemic, to enable universities and the ambulance service to provide targeted support

The COVID -19 Pandemic has caused disruption to students nationally including Allied Health Profession (AHP) students who rely on practice placement to meet their learning outcomes. In 2020 Health Education England (HEE), within the Reducing Pre-registration Attrition and Improving Retention Program (RePAIR), conducted a survey of Nursing, Midwifery and AHP students. As a result of the Impact of COVID-19 on student's survey, and local feedback during the pandemic, it was acknowledged that paramedic students were feeling anxious and lacking confidence to enter into the workplace as a graduate.

We need to understand more about the potential anxieties and self-confidence in clinical making decisions of third year Paramedic students and Newly Qualified Paramedics who were affected by placement disruption during the COVID -19 Pandemic. To support us with gaining meaningful information we have adapted a Nursing Anxiety and Self-Confidence with Clinical Decision Making Scale (NASC-CDM)© , which has previously been used with nurses. This will enable universities and the ambulance service to provide targeted support and ensure the preceptorship period addresses both anxiety and self-confidence.

We are inviting third year paramedics studying with the University of Gloucester and Newly Qualified Paramedics who are within 6- 12 months of employment with South Western Ambulance Service Foundation Trust (SWASFT) to complete the Nursing Anxiety and Self-Confidence with Clinical Decision Making Scale (NASC-CDM)© adapted for use with AHP students. Participants will also be invited to attend a debriefing session to share the survey findings and work together to help to inform whether preceptorship package in SWASFT addresses anxiety and confidence needs.

Who is being invited to complete the survey?

- Third year Paramedic students studying with the University of Gloucestershire
- Newly Qualified Paramedics who are within 6-12 months of employment with SWASFT
- Even if you are feeling confident and not at all anxious your feedback matters. We are encouraging everyone that meets the criteria above to take part.

Where can I find the survey?

Link here: <https://ahs.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/nascd-cdm-ahp-ngp>

Also on - www.SWASTCPD.co.uk SWAST L and D web site, Twitter, Weekly Bulletin

What do I need to do?

- Look out for the advert on Twitter, practice placement, Learning & Development and the University of Gloucester web pages, and in the SWASFT bulletin.
- Please complete the survey honestly based on how you feel at this time, link above and before closing date of 25th April 2021
- Look out for the dates of the debriefing sessions in early May. A debriefing group session of up to 8 participants lasting 1 hour with the project leads from Health Education England and SWASFT

Why am I completing the survey?

- We are wishing to use the data obtained from the survey and from debriefing sessions to ensure the preceptorship package offered by SWASFT will meet your anxiety and confidence needs
- You are a third year student or NQP who has graduated in the last 12 months as a direct entry from a University and experienced placement disruption as a result of the COVID -19 pandemic

- Information gathered through the National RePAIR Programme is indicating that there is a high level of anxiety and reduced self-confidence as a direct result of placement disruption due to the COVID - 19 pandemic
- Information gathered through the National RePAIR Programme is indicating that Self-confidence and preceptorship are key influencers to attrition and retention of students and early year AHPs
- Students currently in their final year of study are reporting to SWASFT concerns over their reduced placement time and asking for an enhanced preceptorship package

What will the debriefing sessions involve and will it be mandatory to attend if I complete the survey?

- We wish to listen, to understand and to respond.
- Anyone who has completed the survey will be invited to attend a debrief session.
- You do not have to attend a debrief session if you complete the survey.
- Debrief sessions will be no more than 8 or 9 per group. The debrief lasts 1 hour and during the sessions we will share the information from the survey results with you and what this means and what matters to you in the finding. A separate debrief participant information sheet will be shared to explain how the sessions will run.
- Recommendations of the project will be coproduced and shared back with the University of Gloucestershire and SWASFT Learning & Development team.

I am a student paramedic but not studying with the University of Gloucester why am I not included to take part in the survey?

- HEE and SWASFT are working with the University of Gloucester as part of the test bed site
- If the project demonstrates that the Nursing Anxiety and Self-Confidence with Clinical Decision Making Scale (NASC-CDM)© can be successfully adapted for use by AHP, and inclusive of paramedics, the tool will be recommended for use by Universities and employers to ensure placement and preceptorship meets the needs of students and NQP's.

- Any recommendations provided as a result of the project will inform the preceptorship packaged for all NQPs to benefit and that will include you should you take up employment with SWASFT

I am a student paramedic employed as an Emergency Care Assistant why am I not included to take part in the survey?

- HEE and SWASFT are working with the University of Gloucester as part of the test bed site.
- The project is specifically looking at placement disruption as a direct result of COVID pandemic
- If the project demonstrates that the Nursing Anxiety and Self confidence in making clinical decisions scale © can be successfully adapted for use by AHP and specifically paramedics the tool will be recommended for use by Universities and employers to ensure placement and preceptorship meets the needs of students and NQPs