

## Education Seminars 2011 – Case Study 5

### Practice Placements

#### **Situation**

A programme has submitted a change notification form to the HPC as the programme team have decided to make a number of changes due to some reallocation of resources. As part of these changes it is made clear that the admissions process has been altered to better fit with a new model of practice placement provision. This model has been designed to reduce the amount of administration required by the programme while still maintaining the quality of practice placement experience for students. As part of these changes students accepted to the programme have to arrange their own placements for the first two years of the programme before taking up their place on the programme.

The programme team are satisfied that this will not impact on the quality of placement experience as before the programme team agree to the placement each provider will have to complete an audit form. Students will then go out on placement for the first year but all experience will be marked formatively and as such will not count towards their final mark. During this first year the programme team will visit each placement site and follow up on the audit form to make sure that placement meets the requirements laid down. This will allow students to undertake experience at the same site in year two but this year the experience will be summative and all marks will go towards their final award.

#### **Questions**

What risks do you think may be associated with the practice placements in this situation?

Do you think the application HPC standards of education (SETs) and training would minimise these risks? What, if any, further evidence do you think the HPC would require to be sure that the programme continues to meet the SETs?

If you were a practice placement educator in this situation would you be happy supervising a student if you had this level of contact and relationship with the education provider?