

## Education Seminars 2011 – Case Study 4

### Practice Placements

#### **Situation**

An education provider has in the past had regular collaborative meetings with its partner placement providers. However, through annual monitoring, it has become clear that in the last two years no such meetings have been taken place. This is because of a lack of staff from the placement providers available to attend these meetings.

As a result the education providers' new placement model has been implemented without a formal consultation having been undertaken with the practice placement providers and educators. However, the education provider has developed a new practice placement educator handbook and updated the training on offer to the educators. This information has been disseminated amongst all current practice placement educators to inform them of the changes.

A significant change to the assessment of students while on practice placement is the requirement for students to do an original piece of research based on their practice placement experience. Students have been encouraged to use their experiences to inform their reading around their chosen subject and to support any outcomes of this research.

#### **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 comfortable with the level of consultation undertaken by the education provider? Would you feel comfortable supporting students doing original research with that level of training?