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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's):

NSW HEALTH COMPLIANCE & VERIFICATION

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Q1: What is compliance & verification?

Compliance and verification are two separate things but are often referred to as one within UOW and NSW Health Placement context.

Compliance simply means following a rule or policy. For student placements within NSW Health, the main policy is the "Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases" policy. Whilst it is not expected that you understand everything about this policy, it is a requirement that you provide evidence that you comply with the [policy](#).

The [UOW Health Placements website](#) summarises the policy requirements. Essentially, all students undertaking a health-related placement must meet the mandatory NSW Health Student Compliance requirements for:

- a. Immunisation and vaccination - to minimise the risk of transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases,
- b. Code of conduct, and
- c. Police check.

Verification is the process that NSW Health goes through to check the evidence each student provides and to verify that it meets policy requirements. The compliance and verification processes are very intertwined and often the terms are used interchangeably.

The UOW Verification team works with NSW Health to assist students to comply with the requirements. NSW Health will determine your compliance status as either **compliant** or **temporary compliant** or **not compliant**. The results are recorded in the NSW Health Student Placement system ClinConnect and conveyed to UOW and the student.

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Q2: How do I become compliant & verified; what steps do I take?

The UOW Health Placements website details the requirements for student compliance and verification: <https://www.uow.edu.au/student/health-placements/>.

The requirements differ slightly for the various courses and programs that UOW offers; please refer to the appropriate web page for your course.

The UOW Verification Team are also available to assist students to meet the requirements. The team's main role is to liaise with NSW Health on behalf of students. The UOW Verification team can be contacted via email on: uow-verification@uow.edu.au

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Q3: What are the different levels of compliance & verification?

There are three different levels of compliance status within NSW Health. These are:

- a. **Compliant (or fully verified):** This means that you have demonstrated that you meet and comply with all the NSW Health requirements. Being compliant means that you will be able to attend a clinical placement, provided your compliance does not expire before the end of that placement.
- b. **Temporary compliant (or temporary verified):** This means that you that you have met the minimum level of requirements, but still have some aspects that you have yet to meet. The most common example is that you have some outstanding Hepatitis B requirements (i.e., the minimum requirement is that you have had at least your first dose). If you have met ALL other requirements but have had at least your first Hepatitis B dose, you will be deemed temporary compliant by NSW Health. Being **temporary compliant** means you will be able to participate in a clinical placement within a NSW Health Facility, but only whilst your temporary compliance is valid.

A temporary status usually **only lasts six months**. This period allows time for you to complete your vaccination course. If after six months you have not completed your vaccinations, your temporary status will expire, and you will be deemed as not compliant.

- c. **Not compliant (or not verified):** This means that that you do not meet (or have not yet met) the minimum level of requirements. A status of not compliant means you cannot be considered for a placement within a NSW Health Facility.

You will only be considered for a placement after NSW Health staff have confirmed (verified) that you are compliant with the requirements (either in full or for a temporary period).

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Q4: I have been deemed a vaccination non-responder. What does this mean for my compliance & verification?

A **non-responder** is someone who despite having a full course of a vaccination, does not show any immunity to that disease, i.e., does not produce antibodies to that vaccine.

If you are found to be a non-responder NSW Health will review your individual circumstances and make a specific recommendation as to how you should proceed. Depending on your circumstances you may not be restricted at all OR you may be limited to certain areas or facilities OR restricted altogether until certain criteria are met.

It is important to note that being classified as a non-responder does not necessarily preclude you from attend a health-related placement within a NSW Health Facility.

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Q5: My General Practitioner (GP) has suggested that I do not need to complete the vaccinations prescribed, as I am already immune?

The NSW Health Policy for the Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases, is a directive that details the vaccination requirements for all workers (including students) that enter NSW Health Facilities.

Before you can attend a health-related placement within a NSW Health facility, you must provide **all evidence** to comply with the policy requirements. It is up to you as an individual to demonstrate that you meet these requirements, as it is you that will be attending placements and not your General Practitioner (GP).

If your GP suggests that the NSW Health Policy does not apply to you, then you will not meet the requirements of that policy and will not be compliant. This means you will not be able to attend any placement within a NSW Health facility.

The NSW Health Student Verification Team will happily discuss the requirements of NSW Health with any GP. Should this be required, please contact the UOW Verification Team uow-verification@uow.edu.au who will facilitate this discussion.

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Q5: I have a Medical Contraindication to some of the vaccines; will this impact my ability to attend placements?

It is possible that your ability to attend placements will be impacted if you have a Medical Contraindication to a vaccine, but not in all cases.

NSW Health will review your individual circumstances and will decide if you can attend health related placements or not. Depending on your circumstances you may not be restricted at all OR you may be limited to certain areas or facilities OR restricted altogether until certain criteria are met. NSW Health will provide an individual response.

If you have any Medical Contraindication, please alert the UOW Verification Team and your Placement Coordinator as soon as possible. A Medical Contraindication form signed by your treating GP or Specialist will be required. All forms (and any corresponding evidence) will be forward to NSW Health for their review.

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Q6: I need to change my name; will this have any impact?

Yes, a name change can impact your placements / progression.

Whilst you are entitled to change your name, the timing of a name change can have unintentional consequences on your ability to attend a placement, particularly within a NSW Health Facility.

It is NSW Health policy that an enrolled student's name must match exactly the name on their National Police Check (NPC), their Student ID Card and what has been entered into the NSW Health ClinConnect placement system by the University.

If you need to change your name, even if it is a relatively minor change, please contact your **Placement Coordinator** and the **UOW Verification Team** UOW-verification@uow.edu.au in the first instance (i.e. before you make any changes within UOW systems). These teams will be able to provide guidance around the timing of the name change, as well as the processes required when changing your name.

Timing is important, as a name change could:

- a. Impact on your ability to attend a placement! Changing your first or surname automatically changes your status with the NSW Health ClinConnect Student Placement system. Your status will change to **not compliant** and will only revert to **compliant** after you supply NSW Health with proof of the name change (usually a new National Police Check). If this occurs within 12 weeks of you starting a placement, you may not be able to commence that placement.
- b. Impact on your registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). During your final session, some of you will make application to AHPRA for registration. If the name you use in your application to AHPRA differs from that you have listed with UOW, then AHPRA will not be able to register you as all your details will have been provided by UOW in your listed name.

Some of the other considerations in terms of timing and placement opportunities include;

- c. You will need to apply for a new National Police Check in your new name; this can take several weeks to procure.
- d. You may need to apply for a new name badge; this too can take several weeks to arrange. Please contact your Placement Coordinator for details.

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Q7: Where can I get further information?

Further information regarding NSW Health Verification can be gathered from the following sites:

- The **UOW Health Placements Website**: <https://www.uow.edu.au/student/health-placements/>
- The **NSW Health ISLHD student compliance page** (NB: this page is relevant to ALL disciplines and not just Nursing students): <https://www.islhd.health.nsw.gov.au/your-career/career-paths/nursing-and-midwifery-careers/student-compliance>
- The FAQ's from the **NSW Health, Health Education and Training** site (HETI): <https://www.heti.nsw.gov.au/Placements-Scholarships-Grants/clinical-placements/faqs-for-students>

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