



West Midlands Education Innovation and Notable Practice

**MEDICINES CALCULATION SOFTWARE PACKAGE TO SUPPORT
STUDENT NURSES**

2010 - 2011



MEDICINES CALCULATION SOFTWARE PACKAGE TO SUPPORT STUDENT NURSES

KEELE UNIVERSITY

Overview:	The Authentic World software package was introduced into the school to assist student nurses in their safe calculations of medicines in line with NMC requirements. The software allows the student to have authentic experience of reading a prescription, making the correct drug calculation and identifying the correct route of administration for the medication.
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The School of Nursing and Midwifery has successfully embedded the medications calculation software package Authentic World into the pre-registration curriculum for both nursing and midwifery which has enhanced the learning and development of numeracy skills and medications calculations. All students are required to practice numeracy and medication calculations and achieve competence throughout the course through ongoing clinical practice assessment and summative assessment using the Authentic World software programme.

Students have found the software to be authentic and based in the realities of clinical practice as it has the facility to expose students to medications and dosage relevant to their field of practice. Assessments range from foundation level to complex IV calculations that are field specific. Feedback from the students has been extremely positive with very high levels of achievement using the online testing facility of the programme.

The software allows students to practice their skills at their own pace, as frequently as the student desires. The software can be accessed from any computer via the internet and is available for the students for the duration of their programme of study.

The software also offers tutorial support to the individual students around areas of medication calculation where they may experience difficulty. Students are able to access the tutorial support as often as they wish and by completing practice assessments can have automatic comprehensive feedback on areas of strength and areas that require further improvement. The school plans to continue to invest in this very successful programme and encourages all staff to gain experience of working with the software.