

AHP Workforce Competencies

Some of you will be aware that Skills for Health (www.skillsforhealth.org.uk) have been developing workforce competencies for Allied Health Professionals across the whole of the UK. It is anticipated by Skills for Health that in the future these will be used by commissioners of services in deciding what they want from a service.

You may have been involved in the earlier stages of this or in the development of the National Occupational Standards for Rehabilitation Technicians (including special seating, prosthetics and orthotics). Skills for Health are nearing the end of the AHP project and many competencies have been identified and developed. There are many competencies that already exist that apply to P&O and many of these apply also to other AHPs (in SfH language they are “common”) and other professions (in SfH language these are “generic”). What they have discovered is that there are profession specific gaps in the competencies. They need our help to identify these gaps. To give you an example there is no competency relating to the fitting and alignment of a prosthesis but there are competencies relating to assessment.

The attached information (and the copy of the email below from Skills for Health) provides more information on workforce competencies and the list of the competencies that have been identified and developed for all AHPs. Please read the attached information which I appreciate it is quite complicated. If you can complete the activity at the end of the attached word document with a focus on what is missing for P&O – you may well need to make the box on the form bigger!

Unfortunately, as is often the case, time is short, SfH require this by the 20th of August. Please send your comments direct to Alison Strobe (Alison.Strobe@skillsforhealth.org.uk)

Dear Colleagues

Skills for Health with the four UK Departments of Health have been undertaking a project to develop a Competence based Career Framework. Front-line staff have been involved from the start with the production of an identified suite of competences for use by Allied Health Professions.

Detailed desk research throughout the project has included UK-wide and international perspectives to ensure that the functions and the competences identified are fit for purpose, forward looking and reflective of best practice. As the project nears completion, Skills for Health would like to ensure that all the key issues around competence development have been addressed or identify any outstanding points for action. We are therefore utilising email to consult on specific outcomes of this project namely:

- To seek clarification from the Professions regarding the range of specialist areas of practice
- To explore with the Professions if and how these specialist areas of practice are incorporated into, or need to be added to the AHP competence map.

Attached are the current competence map and also a briefing document with an activity at the end to help identify exactly the areas we are interested in getting feedback on.

We would be really grateful if you would take this opportunity to inform the outcome of this project. It would be really helpful to have the information as soon as possible or at the latest Monday 20th August.

Thanks for you help

Best wishes
Alison

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