

Standards of Proficiency Review PLG

Meeting: 24th January 2006

Skills for Health – National Occupational Standards

Introduction

At its meeting on 12th October 2005, the Professional Liaison Group requested that the National Occupational Standards (NOS) produced by Skills for Health should be distributed for discussion at the next meeting.

The standards are described as ‘statements of competence, describing good practice’. Each standard covers a discrete area of practice. The standards provide performance criteria against which outcomes can be measured, together with the knowledge and understanding needed to meet those performance criteria.

Two examples of National Occupational Standards, ‘Provide and fit prescribed assistive devices for individual use’ and ‘Monitor and review individual’s progress in relation to maintaining optimum nutritional status’ are enclosed for information. The group may wish to consider the structure, language and content of the standards.

The National Occupational Standards can be accessed by visiting: www.skillsforhealth.co.uk.

Conclusions

The group is invited to consider the following conclusions:

The NOS are similar to the Standards of Proficiency in terms of language and content. They express similar standards, such as the need for a professional to work within his or her scope of practice, to maintain accurate records and they identify other areas of awareness and understanding needed for effective practice.

The NOS are very detailed and are written to describe the competencies necessary to perform a specific function. The Standards of Proficiency are designed so that they can be flexibly applied to a variety of different work that registrants are engaged in. The NOS aim to describe ‘good practice’ whilst the Standards of Proficiency describe minimum ‘threshold’ standards for safe and effective practice.

Decision

No decision is required; this paper is for information only.

Date	Ver.	Dept/Cmte	Doc Type	Title	Status	Int. Aud.
2005-11-25	a	POL	COR	SOPs Review - National Occupational Standards	Draft DD: None	Confidential RD: None

Background information

None

Resource Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: AHP9 Monitor and review individual's progress in relation to maintaining optimum nutritional status.

Appendix 2: AHP4 Provide and fit prescribed assistive devices for individual use.

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