

Competencies for Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists working with people living with HIV

For specialist HIV inpatient settings

Physiotherapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions
- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of respiratory conditions
- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions
- continuous professional development relating to HIV practice, including but not limited to an understanding of HIV related complications and presentations, HIV treatment, and issues relating to HIV disability and social context

Occupational therapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions, including disorders of neurocognitive functioning
- continuous professional development relating to HIV practice, including but not limited to an understanding of HIV related complications and presentations, HIV treatment, and issues relating to HIV disability and social context

Speech and language therapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions, including disorders of neurocognitive functioning
- continuous professional development relating to HIV practice, including but not limited to an understanding of HIV related complications and presentations, HIV treatment, and issues relating to HIV disability and social context

For specialist HIV outpatient settings

Physiotherapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions
- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions
- advanced or senior level skills in exercise physiology and provision of exercise based interventions
- continuous professional development relating to HIV practice, including but not limited to an understanding of HIV related complications and presentations, HIV treatment, and issues relating to HIV disability and social context

Occupational therapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions, including disorders of neurocognitive functioning

- advanced or senior level skills in the assessment and treatment of mental health presentations
- continuous professional development relating to HIV practice, including but not limited to an understanding of HIV related complications and presentations, HIV treatment, and issues relating to HIV disability and social context

Speech and language therapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions, including disorders of neurocognitive functioning
- continuous professional development relating to HIV practice, including but not limited to an understanding of HIV related complications and presentations, HIV treatment, and issues relating to HIV disability and social context

For inpatient care that is not in an HIV specialist setting

Physiotherapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate, or have access to support with:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions
- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of respiratory conditions

Occupational therapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate, or have access to support with:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions, including disorders of neurocognitive functioning

Speech and language therapists providing services in this setting should be able to demonstrate, or have access to support with:

- advanced or senior level skills in assessment and treatment of neurological conditions, including disorders of neurocognitive functioning

Opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD)

There is no current gold standard or accredited educational qualification in the UK for specifically developing competence in HIV practice for Occupational Therapists. This is partly due to the evolving nature of knowledge in this relatively new practice area and relative paucity of evidence based research. RHIVA recommends the following resources when developing an individual CPD programme for therapists working in HIV settings:

- Attendance at RHIVA study days
- On-line e-modules such as the *E-Module for evidence informed HIV rehabilitation* published in 2011, available at: <http://www.hivandrehab.ca/EN/module.php>
- Self directed learning and reflection using online clinical resources such as www.i-Base.info , www.clinicaloptions.com and www.aidsmap.com
- Participation in HIV and rehabilitation research activity, including attending relevant conferences
- Benchmarking and shadowing activity with established services