

## **AHP4      Provide and fit prescribed assistive devices for individual use**

### ***About this workforce competence***

This workforce competence relates to working with individual patients, their carers and other members of a multi-disciplinary team, where appropriate, to provide and fit assistive devices to meet individual needs. This may take place anywhere. This will include confirmation of suitability for the prescription, suitability of fit and operation and the capacity or social interaction of the individual which may include use of the assistive device in the user environment.

### **Links**

*This workforce competence links with the following dimensions and levels within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (August 2004)*

Dimension: Health and Well-Being: 7 – Interventions and treatments related to the structure and function of physiological and psychological systems.

Level: 2

### **Origins**

This workforce competence has been newly developed for Allied Health Profession Support by Skills for Health.

## Key words and concepts

### Scope

#### Individual

individuals who are:

- a) adults,
- b) children and young people,
- c) older people,
- d) people with communication differences

#### Assistive device

Includes any devices designed to aid:

- a) positioning e.g. soft wedges, adjustable beds
- b) sitting e.g. riser recliner chairs
- c) bathing e.g. hand rails, bath seats, walk in baths, hoists
- d) mobility both inside and outside the home e.g. walking frames, sticks and crutches, ramps, motorized scooters specially adapted vehicles, wheelchairs (manual and electric)
- e) other everyday functions e.g. special cutlery, tin openers, tap attachments, bed tables, adapted shoe horns

## Performance criteria

*You need to:*

1. provide the **individual** with the prescribed **assistive device**
2. confirm the suitability of fit, size and operation of the **assistive device** meets expected performance parameters and prescription and conforms to the manufacturer's guidelines
3. confirm the **assistive device** is in safe working order within the user environment, where relevant
4. where adjustments are required obtain relevant measurements and other data
5. make adjustments in line with manufacturers guidelines where possible within the scope of your practice, or arrange for modification to be undertaken by the appropriate person
6. when required, restrict device functions for initial or trial periods to enable familiarity and ensure safety
7. document and report the process and outcomes of fitting ensuring that arrangements for further action are implemented
8. document maintenance periods and requirements for **assistive device**
9. complete any necessary documentation accurately, completely and legibly in the case of any faulty **assistive devices**
10. confirm that patient and carers have relevant documentation and understand what further action will be taken

## **Knowledge and understanding**

*You need to apply:*

### ***Legislation, Policy and good practice***

- K1 A factual awareness of the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols which affect your work practice in relation to providing and fitting assistive devices for individual use
- K2 A working understanding of your responsibilities under the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and their effect on your actions within the care environment
- K3 A working understanding of the importance of testing assistive devices within the user environment
- K4 A working understanding how to work effectively as a member of a multi-disciplinary team

### ***Materials and equipment***

- K5 A working understanding of the range of assistive devices and the associated systems and procedures for their provision
- K6 A working understanding of how to ensure that the assistive devices are safe and fit for use
- K7 A working understanding of the appropriate measurements and limits of use for each type of assistive device

### ***Procedures and techniques***

- K8 A working understanding of how to evaluate the user environment
- K9 A working understanding of how to fit, test and adjust assistive devices to meet individual needs
- K10 A working understanding of the range, associated systems and purpose of assistive devices
- K11 A working understanding of the key principles associated with fitting and using the specific device provided, or where to access information relating to the range of assistive devices, associated systems and purpose
- K12 A working understanding of the range of measurements required to prepare a specification for modification or adjustment to original prescription
- K13 A working understanding of the principles of movement, mobility, posture management and special seating, including an understanding of balance and gait
- K14 A working understanding of the procedures and systems within the organisation in relation to assistive devices, including repairs, ordering specific assistive devices, modification and so on

### ***Records and Documentation***

- K16 A working understanding of the types of information that should be documented and the importance of doing this accurately, completely, legibly and as contemporaneously as possible

- K17 A working understanding of the requirements for signing off handover documentation
- K18 A working understanding of why it is important that documentation regarding use and maintenance of assistive devices is given to the individual or their family/carer