

Annex 1: Template for an Expression of Interest (EOI) to develop a standard

(see Section 2)

To: Apprenticeship Trailblazers Team by email:
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Proposal to develop apprenticeship standard(s) in Podiatry sector

I am writing as the lead employer for the proposed development group in Podiatry. This is a new standards development group. I would chair the group and lead this work.

I am working with the group of employers listed below, all of whom are committed to working together to develop apprenticeship standards and to see these through to delivery.

The occupation that we would like to develop an apprenticeship standard for is Podiatry/Podiatrist

Podiatrists are healthcare professionals who work independently and/or as part of a multidisciplinary team to deliver the care needed to keep the population healthy and mobile. Podiatrists work to improve the mobility, independence and the quality of life for their patients by providing preventative care, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of problems affecting the feet, ankles and lower limbs. On graduation some podiatrists may develop special interests within the profession, and so choose to specialise in area such as:

- Podiatric surgery
- Rheumatology
- Diabetes
- Gerontology
- Paediatrics
- Biomechanics and sport.

Trainees will develop competencies such as:

- Psychomotor skills
- Clinical assessment
- Diagnostic skills

- Application of theory to practice
- Research skills
- Health & safety
- Compassionate and values-based behaviours.

We believe that this occupation will require rigorous and substantial training of around 36-42 months to achieve full competence, it is envisaged that 20-40% of which will be off-the-job training this would consist of 1 day theoretical teaching in formal lectures and 1 day of clinical training where the students would develop their nail care and scalpel debridement techniques Clinical/practical training can and would be delivered in our clinical facilities and within a variety of NHS & private podiatry clinics. The level of practical training would increase as the students' progress due to the complexities and nature of the role of the modern podiatrist. In Level 4 (first year of study) students would be encouraged to demonstrate and master the basic techniques of nail care and scalpel debridement. Level 5 students build on these skills increase their knowledge to include diagnostic equipment such as Doppler's and basic biomechanical equipment.

Within the final year of study students will undertake specific and specialist training, an integral part of the programme will encompass certification in specialist subjects such as administration of local analgesia and the safe supply of prescription only medicines.

Currently there is no other provider or provider group delivering a similar standard and no other standard that will overlap with this standard. However we do deliver an advanced apprenticeship in Advanced Apprenticeship in Clinical Healthcare Support (Podiatry Assistant).

On completion of the programme the students will graduate as an autonomous practitioner and would allow them to register on the HCPC register.

We are committed to ensuring that the standard we design provides sufficiently transferable skills to enable a successful apprentice to perform this role in an employer of any size and in any relevant sector. Key transferable skills would include:

- Team working
- Communication in a professional manner with patients, carers, relatives and other healthcare professionals in a variety of formats
- Leadership
- High level of clinical and diagnostic skills
- Respect and empathetic approach

- Time management
- Critical reflection on own professional practice and implement strategies to promote self-awareness and continuing professional development
- Information technology skills relevant to effective learning and competent clinical practice
- Critical thinking and reasoning/problem solving
- Application of numeracy and literacy skills
- Gather, record and evaluate evidence and information from a wide range of sources

We are collectively a representative of our sector and are willing to work with other employers who come forward with an interest in this occupation. We will develop the apprenticeship standard and assessment plan in line with the latest edition of the “Guidance for Trailblazers – from standards to starts, December 2015”

We have reviewed the standards that have already been developed and those in development and are satisfied that there is no duplication with our bid