

Review of Health Informatics NOS Newsletter – September 2009

Background

Skills for Health, the Sector Skills Council for the Health Sector, are undertaking a major project to review and improve the Health Informatics National Occupational Standards. National Occupational Standards (NOS) define what a competent person should be able to do when they carry out a particular work activity.

The Health Informatics NOS were developed during 2003 and submitted for approval in February 2004. At the request of the Strategy Group at that time, the NOS were given a relatively short period of accreditation. A subsequent Review Project took place in 2006 to bring the HINOS in-line with changes in practice, changes to the overall approach of NOS and changes in the NOS brought in from the work of other Sector Skills Councils.

There is now a need for further review and development of the Health Informatics NOS. This work will up-date the NOS, and also provide the basis for them to be used for future qualifications, the UK wide Career Framework, the Health Informatics Quality Scheme for Learning and Development and a range of workforce development activities.

The first stage of the work is now completed and a scoping report has been produced. The scoping report concludes that a number of changes will be required to up-date the HINOS. These can be summarised as follows:

- refreshing the list of NOS brought in from the work of other Sector Skills Councils
- revising the content of the HI specific competences based on the scoping report
- developing a small number of new NOS to cover the gaps identified in the scoping study (e.g. information governance, health economics)

The next stage of the project will involve making the above changes with the help of practitioners and experts from the field of Health Informatics.

A UK wide project

The project is being overseen by a Strategy Group which currently has representation from NHS Connecting for Health (England), Informing Health Care (Wales), e-Health Directorate (Scottish Government) and Beeches Management Centre (NI). A Reference Group has been established to input to the more detailed review work as well as a series of workshops across the four countries:

WORKSHOP Dates for the Diary

London – 4 November 2009
 South Wales – 11 November 2009
 Glasgow – 17 November 2009
 Northern Ireland – 25 November 2009

If you would like to be involved in any of these workshops please contact Nathan.Laxton@skillsforhealth.org.uk for more details.

Project timetable

The project has been running from June 2009 and is due to complete in March 2010. An overview of the timetable is as follows:

Research and scoping	June to August 2009
NOS review (first draft)	September to November 2009
Testing and consultation	December 2009 to Feb' 2010
Final draft	March 2010

Next update

The next bulletin will be available in early 2010. All project information is also available on the Skills for Health website:

<http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/competences/competences-in-development.aspx>

We need your help!

If you would like to be involved in helping to review the Health Informatics NOS and informing development of any new content, please contact Nathan Laxton (Skills for Health Project Manager) at:

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 Skills for Health