



Competence Areas – TIER I

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1. Inhalers

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to help patients use inhalers effectively – applicable to both acute and long term management of asthma, COPD and other respiratory conditions

Rating Scale: **1 Needs a lot of development**
2 Needs some development
3 Is well developed

T1 Knowledge	1	2	3
1 Discuss the groups of medications that can be prescribed by inhaler and their effects and side-effects			
2 Describe the basic care of devices			
3 Describe the rationale for good inhaler technique			
4 Describe how to assess patient for effective inhaler technique for commonly used devices			
5 Describe the quality assurance and risk management mechanisms relative to inhaler therapy to ensure safe and effective treatment			
6 Describe the relevant organisational infection prevention and control protocols			
7 Discuss the criteria and/or sources of referral for patients where there is lack of effectiveness of treatment and/or difficulty using devices			
T1 Skills	1	2	3
1 a) Assess and optimise patient inhaler technique through observation of the patient			
1 b) Assess and optimise patient inhaler technique through demonstration of correct technique to patient/carer (using placebo where necessary)			
2 Provide the patient/carer with information on the effects of medication and how to minimise or deal with side-effects			
3 Refer to specialist practitioners for guidance and/or assessment in a timely manner			
4 Accurately document findings and actions			
T1 Attitudes	1	2	3
1 Value a person-centred approach to health care in selecting the most appropriate and suitable inhaler device			
2 Value the importance of good inhaler technique			

2. Nebulisers

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to use nebuliser therapy in acute exacerbations and in the long term management of asthma, COPD and other respiratory conditions

Rating Scale: 1 Needs a lot of development

2 Needs some development

3 Is well developed

T1 Knowledge		1	2	3
1	Describe the indications for nebuliser therapy in emergencies and deteriorating patients			
2	Explain how nebuliser equipment works			
3	Identify the indications and risks for air or oxygen driven nebuliser therapy, including when to use compressors in acute settings			
4	Outline the rationale for the nebuliser treatment regime for individual patients			
5	Identify the common groups of medication, and their doses, used in nebuliser therapy			
6	Describe how effectiveness of medication may be assessed and ways to minimise side-effects			
7	Explain the rationale for duration, frequency and type of monitoring required for provision of safe and effective nebuliser therapy			
8	Describe scope of own practice and role in the provision of nebuliser therapy			
9	Describe referral criteria for nebuliser therapy assessment			
10	Describe components of accurate recording and documentation of prescription and effectiveness			
11	Describe the equipment required for nebulisation and how to set up the system			
12	Describe the organisational policies and procedures relating to nebuliser use			
13	Describe relevant organisational infection prevention and control protocols			
14	Explain the quality assurance and risk management mechanisms relative to the equipment and therapy to ensure safe and effective treatment			
15	Describe local nebuliser equipment management policy, including mesh and tubing changing			
T1 Skills		1	2	3
1	Obtain informed consent for nebuliser therapy			
2	Choose the most appropriate equipment and method of driving nebuliser therapy for individual patients			

2. Nebulisers

	1	2	3
T1 Skills (contd.)			
3 Implement and monitor effectiveness of nebuliser therapy in accordance with the individual treatment plan, patient's clinical status and organisational policies and procedures			
4 Monitor and manage equipment for signs of unreliability of medication delivery in accordance with quality assurance and risk management policies			
5 Refer to specialist or senior practitioners for guidance and/or assessment in a timely manner			
T1 Attitudes			
1 Value a person-centred approach to health care in selecting the most appropriate and suitable nebuliser device			

3. Oxygen Therapy

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to implement oxygen therapy in acute exacerbations of COPD, asthma and other respiratory conditions including home and ambulatory oxygen therapy for long term management.

Rating Scale: 1 Needs a lot of development

2 Needs some development

3 Is well developed

T1 Knowledge	1	2	3
1 Identify indications and contraindications for oxygen therapy			
2 Describe appropriate prescription for emergencies and acute relapses, including Target SPO2 range in oxygen prescription			
3 Explain the rationale for duration, frequency and type of monitoring required to determine effectiveness of oxygen therapy			
4 Identify appropriate delivery systems which will provide prescribed level of oxygen (including high flow nasal O2/ Humid air) , and target oxygen saturation range.			
5 Explain the quality assurance and risk management mechanisms relative to oxygen therapy provision and equipment to produce safe and effective treatment			
6 Describe the relevant organisational policies and procedures for use			
7 Describe relevant prevention and control of infection protocols			
8 Identify the expected effects of oxygen therapy			
9 Outline possible side-effects, hazards and complications that may arise and how they can be minimised			
10 Describe referral criteria and pathways for senior and/or specialist practitioner assessment or guidance regarding oxygen therapy or its effectiveness			
11 Outline components of accurate recording and documentation of prescription and effectiveness			
12 Describe scope of own practice and role in provision of oxygen therapy			
13 Describe the emergency oxygen guidelines and how they relate to own practice			
T1 Skills	1	2	3
1 Prepare patient/carer for using oxygen therapy through explanation and informed consent			
2 Choose the most appropriate equipment for oxygen delivery, based on type of therapy, changing prescription requirements, patient's clinical status and preference			
3 Carry out appropriate monitoring of effectiveness and safety of oxygen therapy in accordance with treatment plan, patient's clinical status and organisational policies and procedures			
4 Provide smoking cessation advice and assistance where appropriate			

3. Oxygen Therapy

	1	2	3
T1 Skills (contd.)			
5 Refer to specialist or senior practitioners for guidance and/or assessment in a timely manner			
6 Accurately document findings and actions			
T1 Attitudes			
1 Value a person-centred approach to health care			
2 Value the contribution of appropriate O2 therapy whilst recognising the potential risks and benefits			

4. Non-Invasive Ventilation

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to implement non-invasive ventilation (NIV) in acute exacerbations of COPD and long term management of COPD.

Rating Scale: 1 Needs a lot of development

2 Needs some development

3 Is well developed

T1 Knowledge		1	2	3
1	Identify indications for NIV, based on holistic assessment of patient			
2	Describe the relevant organisational policies and procedures for use			
3	Describe relevant organisational infection prevention and control protocols			
4	Explain the duration, frequency and components of monitoring required to determine effectiveness of treatment			
5	Explain the quality assurance and risk management mechanisms relative to NIV to ensure safe and effective treatment			
6	Describe the correct application, operation and removal of the equipment			
7	Describe referral criteria and pathways for senior, specialist practitioner and/or other agency associated with the provision of NIV			
8	Describe potential complications of NIV for patients			
T1 Skills		1	2	3
1	Correctly apply and remove equipment for patients established on NIV			
2	Interpret monitoring findings in light of patient's clinical status and management plan			
3	Refer to/liaise with specialist or senior practitioners for guidance and/or assessment in a timely manner			
4	Accurately record and document findings and actions			
T1 Attitudes		1	2	3
1	Value a person-centred approach to health care			
2	Value the contribution of health professionals and agencies to patient care			

5. Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to ensure that patients use Adrenaline Auto-injectors (AAI) safely and effectively – when such have been prescribed for patients at risk of anaphylaxis.

Rating Scale: 1 Needs a lot of development

2 Needs some development

3 Is well developed

T1 Knowledge	1	2	3
1 Describe the different AAIs that can be prescribed and their effects and side-effects			
2 Describe the basic care of AAIs			
3 Describe the rationale for good AAI technique			
4 Describe how to assess patient for effective AAI technique			
5 Describe the quality assurance and risk management mechanisms relative to AAI use to ensure safe and effective treatment			
6 Describe the relevant organisational infection prevention and control protocols			
7 Describe criteria and/or sources of referral for patients who are at risk of anaphylaxis - these patients may have presented with a generalised allergic reaction			
T1 Skills	1	2	3
1 Assess and optimise patient AAI technique through demonstration of correct technique to patient/carer (using trainer device) and observation of the patient/carers			
2 Provide the patient/carer with information on the effects of medication and how to minimise or deal with side-effects			
3 Refer to specialist or senior practitioners for guidance and/or assessment in a timely manner			
4 Accurately document findings and actions			
T1 Attitudes	1	2	3
1 Value the unique needs of patient/carer			