



Competence Areas – TIER 2

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1. Pulse Oximetry

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to measure and evaluate pulse oximetry in acute exacerbations 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

T2 Knowledge		1	2	3
1	Identify all indications for use			
2	Relate measurement to the patient's clinical picture			
3	Describe clinical guidelines relating to use of pulse oximetry and how they apply to practice			
4	Correlate the range of measurements with partial pressure of arterial oxygen			
T2 Skills		1	2	3
1	a) Analyse and evaluate results in light of patient's clinical status to arrange suitable investigations if required			
1	b) Analyse and evaluate results in light of patient's clinical status to implement appropriate treatment			
2	Use pulse oximetry to evaluate oxygen status and effectiveness of management plan			
3	Actively seek opportunities to engage in service development			
4	Discuss results with patient healthcare team and contribute to adjustment of individualised management plan where necessary			
5	Actively seek opportunities to audit the service provided			
T2 Attitudes		1	2	3

2. Blood Gases

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to measure and analyse blood gases in acute exacerbations 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

T2 Knowledge	1	2	3
1 Identify mechanisms for maintenance of acid base balance in arterial blood			
2 Describe pathological conditions affecting acid base balance, ventilation, diffusion and oxygen transport			
3 Describe correlation of partial pressure of oxygen to oxygen saturation curve and pulse oximetry			
4 Explain potential side-effects of the sampling process and how they may be minimised			
5 Describe contraindications to blood gas analysis			
6 Describe clinical guidelines relating to blood gases and how they apply to practice			
T2 Skills	1	2	3
1 Prepare patient for sampling through informed consent			
2 Analyse result in conjunction with patient's clinical status to determine if abnormalities are present			
3 Liaise with multiprofessional team to review and contribute to patient's individualised management plan in the light of blood gas results			
4 Communicate blood gas results to relevant members of patient's primary, secondary and/or community healthcare team to promote seamless healthcare			
T2 Attitudes	1	2	3

3. Peak Expiratory Flow Rate (PEFR)

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to measure and evaluate peak expiratory flow rate (PEFR) in acute and long term management of asthma.

Rating Scale: 1 Needs a lot of development

2 Needs some development

3 Is well developed

T2 Knowledge		1	2	3
1	Identify relevant clinical guidelines relating to PEFR use			
2	Explain contribution of PEFR to asthma assessment, diagnosis and management			
3	Relate patterns of results to patient's clinical picture and lung function physiology and pathology			
4	Explain the benefits of PEFR monitoring in self-management to patient/carer			
5	Explain difficulties patient/carer may have in incorporating PEFR monitoring into lifestyle			
T2 Skills		1	2	3
1	Use PEFR results to contribute to the patient's diagnosis and individualised management plan			
2	Assist and encourage patient/carer to use PEFR in self-management of own asthma			
T2 Attitudes		1	2	3
1	Show willingness to establish rapport with patient/carer to ascertain individual preferences, abilities and/or needs in PEFR monitoring			
2	Value contribution of other professionals to patient care			

4. Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT)

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to measure and evaluate pulmonary function tests (PFTs) in 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

T2 Knowledge	1	2	3
1 Describe pathological effects of COPD and asthma on ventilation			
2 Identify relevant organisational policies and procedures relating to indications and referral for spirometry, FeNO and other respiratory investigation for assessment and management			
3 Identify contraindications to spirometry testing			
4 Describe quality assurance and risk management mechanisms relative to procuring, and ongoing use of, spirometer, FeNO and other respiratory investigations			
5 Explain how to analyse results to distinguish between obstructive and restrictive pictures, and identify severity of airflow obstruction			
T2 Skills	1	2	3
1 Discuss with senior and/or specialist colleagues, referral of suitable patients for spirometry , FeNO and other respiratory investigations testing			
2 Prepare patient/carer for spirometry, FeNO and other respiratory investigations or procedure through provision of appropriate information			
3 Interpret spirometry, FeNO and other respiratory investigation results in light of patient's clinical status to inform assessment and management			
4 Communicate results to relevant members of patient health care team to promote seamless healthcare			
5 Liaise with multiprofessional team to contribute, and where necessary adjust, patient's individualised management plan			
6 Actively take part in, and seek opportunities to participate in, service development			
T2 Attitudes	1	2	3
1 Show motivation to refer patients on when necessary			

Nurses in Tier 1 or Tier 2 who carry out spirometry testing should refer to Tier 3 indicators K1, K4, K5, K6, K7, K13, S1, S2, S3

5. Allergy Testing

Competence statement:

This competence refers to the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to assess and monitor the contribution of allergy in the acute and long term management of asthma.

Rating Scale: 1 Needs a lot of development

2 Needs some development

3 Is well developed

T2 Knowledge	1	2	3
1 Describe the difference between asthma that is linked to atopy (allergy) and non-atopic asthma			
2 Describe relevant UK and regionally adopted clinical guidelines			
3 Identify components of allergy history taking			
4 Describe relevant allergy avoidance measures			
5 Identify the association between asthma and other atopic diseases and the relative risk of patients for 'the atopic march'			
6 Outline common allergens which may induce symptoms in asthma patients			
7 Describe relevant tests to determine presence of atopy in patients			
8 Identify the indications for specific allergen testing			
9 Describe the indications for immunoglobulin E (IgE) testing			
10 Identify the indications for referral to allergy specialist services			
11 Outline the difference between sensitivity and atopy			
T2 Skills	1	2	3
1 Assess patient's allergy history			
2 Obtain informed consent from patient/carer to confirm presence of atopy (IgE testing) when indicated			
3 Provide up-to-date allergen avoidance advice to patient/carer with positive atopic history, integrating guidance from clinical guidelines			
4 Monitor patients for signs of 'allergic march' and, in liaison with senior and/or specialist colleagues, adjust individualised management plans in accordance with organisational policies and procedures			
5 Refer to specialist services when indicated for further assessment of potential allergy			
6 Actively seek opportunities to engage in service development			
7 Actively seek opportunities to audit the service provided			
8 Use problem solving skills to underpin clinical decision making			
T2 Attitudes	1	2	3
1 Value the unique needs of patient/carer			
2 Empower patient/carer through appropriate allergy education and advocacy of their wishes			