

Student Occupational Health Processes

Introduction

The following information is a brief summary of the Occupational Health (OH) processes for students studying health and social work programmes at the University of Hertfordshire. All students complete a health questionnaire prior to commencing their course. Students are allocated a date and time to have a consultation with the Occupational Health Nurse prior to commencing clinical placement. At consultation any health issues disclosed are discussed with the OH Nurse. Where further information is required from the students GP/Specialist, a signed consent is obtained from the student. Students may be referred to the Occupational Health Physician when deemed necessary. Mandatory immunisations/bloods will be commenced on day of consultation. Final health clearance will only be given when adequate information pertaining to the physical or psychological health of the student has been obtained and assessed.

The School has established a website via StudyNet that contains all the student OH materials summarised below.

Information and processes

There are several processes in place to ensure that students studying health and social work programmes are cleared by the OH providers to enable them to attend practice placements. These are;

- Pre-enrolment health assessment questionnaire
- Pre-course health declaration form
- Consent form
- Occupational health requirements for all healthcare students
- Health Standards for healthcare students
- Occupational health services standards
- Pregnancy risk assessment – expectant mothers
- AIDS/HIV infected health care workers

Pre-enrolment health assessment questionnaire

This is a detailed health questionnaire, which covers health and function capabilities (e.g. mobility, dexterity, communication), skin, neurological, endocrine conditions, consciousness, fatigue mental health and eating disorders, contact with psychological therapists, chicken pox, measles, TB etc..
Consent to contact the applicant's/ student's GP and request for confirmation of immunisations

Pre-course health declaration form

This form also contains a more detailed questionnaire, which covers the applicant's/student's medical history including any conditions suffered that may affect night work, epilepsy, diabetes, breathing and chest conditions, migraines, gastrointestinal etc... Further details are requested of immunisations. This form also is used by the OH advisors that the student is fit for the programme.

Consent form

This form outlines the applicant's/student's rights about Access to Medical Reports act (1988) and confirms consent to the OH advisors contacting other doctors. The understanding that general information may be passed for management purposes is also detailed on this form.

Occupational health requirements for all healthcare students

This is a generic information sheet which outlines the requirement for a face-to-face appointment prior to commencing clinical placements. This information sheet also outlines that if evidence for immunisation cannot be provided the students will be immunised. The additional exposure prone procedures (EPP) requirements for some professional groups is also contained within this information sheet e.g. midwifery, paramedics

Health standards for healthcare students

This is another information sheet which outlines that health screening process is intended to assess whether applicant's/student's will have the capability to meet the standards of the training and professional practice. The intention being to either; (1) clear those with satisfactory health, or (2) identify those who have functional impairment and who might benefit for extra support or reasonable adjustment, or (3) identify those who have a medical problem such that they would either be unable to complete the programme, or be unfit for clinical practice. Equality impacts have been addressed.

The student OH procedures are outlined as well as the policy responses to a range of medical conditions – these include physical and mental health conditions.

Occupational health services standards

This is an additional information sheet outlining the pre-registration health screening processes, the referral process for a student to OH, enquiries and how students can make self-referrals, immunisation and testing processes including exposure prone procedures and an exclusions section, which details factors that may affect the above processes.

Pregnancy risk assessment – expectant mothers

This is the risk assessment referral form for expectant mothers.

AIDS/HIV infected health care workers

Students are identified as health care workers in the student OH service providers information. Student are required to sign that they have read and understood this sheet, which outlines an individual's responsibility and duty to protect and safeguard patients and the public and seek specialist medical advice if an individual is HIV positive.