Guidelines for contributors

The Open Learning Zone (OLZ) was designed as a learning tool for our members. It enables each member to collate evidence for their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements which is part of re-registration and mandatory for both Nurses and ODPs. The OLZ consists primarily of CPD tasks that are linked to an article to enhance the learning experience. Additional useful information relating to the Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF) dimensions and Notional Learning Hours (NLH) are attached to each CPD task. The OLZ is originally published in the journal and then the information is subsequently transferred to the OLZ on the website. This enables members to complete the tasks on a web-based form which can be saved as part of their e-portfolio and/or printed and kept as a hard copy within their CPD files.

Notional Learning Hours

Time spent on learning activities is evidenced through NLH. Once it is completed, members can log their evidence of CPD. There is no requirement for points, etc, for either regulated profession of Nurses or Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs). However, nurses are required to complete 35 hours of CPD over a registration period of three years. This framework is a dynamic learning tool for an AfPP member as it outlines learning outcomes through learning experiences or topical themes.

Knowledge and Skills Framework

Agenda for Change (AIC) and the KSF, introduced by the Department of Health in 2004, place an emphasis on lifelong learning and require all staff within the NHS to assess how they record and monitor their personal development. As part of the OLZ, to enable members to record KSF evidence, each OLZ task is linked to the appropriate KSF dimensions. This enables the member to also evidence their KSF though the OLZ as well as their CPD, thereby ‘killing two birds with one stone’. This also provides added value to those members who have no regulatory requirements as such but are required to evidence their KSF.

The following is an example of how these elements are drawn together:

So, what do you need to do?

To ensure that the quality of each OLZ article is assured, we ensure that the OLZ tasks are completed and go with the article for review, therefore forming part of the peer review process. Therefore you need to:

- Supply three to five CPD tasks relevant to the article which will enhance the learning experience of the reader.
- Suggest how long it might take a reader to complete the OLZ task.
- Suggest where in the article the tasks will be best placed.
- Provide three or more website links that will provide additional information that relates to the article.

You do not need to supply the additional KSF information unless you are happy to do so, as AfPP is more than willing to complete these on your behalf. If you require a blank template to help you set out the OLZ tasks, one can be supplied for you.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact AfPP:

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