

Delegated healthcare interventions national framework

Skills for Care and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) are working in collaboration with partners to develop a national framework to support consistent, safe and effective delegation of healthcare interventions to social care workers across residential and community settings, including the personal assistant (PA) workforce.

Policy background

Earlier this year, the white paper '[Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations](#)' was published with its commitment to integration of health and social care. This sets out measures to make integration a universal reality across England with the development of a national delegation framework cited as a consideration. The DHSC Adult Social Care Reform white paper, '[People at the Heart of Care](#)', sets out plans for investing in the social care workforce, equipping staff with the right training and qualifications and supporting them to feel recognised and valued for their skills and commitment, with their wellbeing prioritised.

Why is a national framework important?

We know that delegation of healthcare interventions to social care workers has been happening for some years, and more recently, in response to the pandemic. Although there are examples of good practice, the delegation picture across the country is varied with differing local protocols, structures, processes, and in some cases conducted through informal agreements.

The new national delegation framework will be a voluntary framework to be adapted locally and complement existing good practice and protocols, to set out guiding principles to delivering delegated healthcare interventions safely and effectively. The framework can be adapted for use across a range of settings, including the PA workforce, with clear registered professional accountability and oversight.

Timescales

The delegation framework will be informed by policy, procedure and governance arrangements published in spring 2023 followed by the establishment of trailblazer sites across the country. The framework is the start of a longer term vision using good practice, collaborative working and shared learning to implement the principles.

Who's involved?

Our national steering group comprises of national partners, providers and regulators across both health and social care, alongside key organisations who are delivering specific projects to support the framework.

These are:

- The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), who are gathering intelligence on what works well and what needs to change for commissioning practices for delegation of healthcare interventions
- The Foundation of Nursing Studies (FoNS), who are supporting a group of registered social care nurses to consider the requirements and benefits of resilience based clinical supervision
- St Martins Care, Northumberland, who are supporting social care skills development and the provision of clinical oversight and competency assessment
- The National Care Forum (NCF), who are developing a decision tree and supporting policies for effective delegation
- Lincolnshire Care Association (LINCA), who are focusing on the delegation of diabetes management and remote monitoring to social care workers with the development of a toolkit to enable local pilots to be scaled up safely and cost effectively.

Find out more

Read about this work in a recent [blog](#) from Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care DHSC and Oonagh Smyth, CEO Skills for Care.

If you'd like to find out more or link into the above projects and/or the framework development, please contact policy@skillsforcare.org.uk and we will link you to the relevant member of the project team.

Further national communications will be circulated as the work progresses.

Delegated Healthcare Interventions National Framework

Supported by a national steering group led by Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, DHSC and Skills for Care, alongside health and social care stakeholders, partners and regulators.

The new national delegation framework for England will set out voluntary guiding principles that can be adapted locally for personalised, safe and effective delegated healthcare interventions, complementing existing good practice and protocols. The framework will be developed within the wider context of social care reform, regulation and professional accountability, for use across residential and community settings, including Individual Employers and Personal Assistants.

Development

June 2022 – March 2023

Publication

Spring 2023

Implementation and Trailblazers

2023-24

Additional pieces of work commissioned by Skills for Care to support the framework activity will take place throughout June – December 2022.

Lincolnshire Care Association

Toolkit to support delegation of diabetes management and remote monitoring.

St Martins Care, Northumberland

Skills development to support the delivery of training and skills development for wound care.

National Care Forum

Development of a decision tree for social care providers and supporting policies.

Foundation of Nursing Studies

Pilot of resilience based clinical supervision for adult social care nurses.

Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

Research into commissioning practices and development of a top tips guide.