

AHP Quality Service Standards – Scotland

Context: AHP National Delivery Plan: *“The Scottish Government will work in partnership with AHP directors and the AHP Federation Scotland to develop a consensus statement on AHP Quality standards in 2013.”*¹

Our Vision: To deliver a core set of generic quality service standards for all allied health professions which are useful and which encompass our challenges and our values in securing and delivering quality services for our service users.

These standards therefore represent our **intentions** and our **expectations**.

Why do we need Quality Service Standards?

Evidence that a generic Quality Service Standard is needed includes;

- Variation and disparity in quantity and quality of AHP provision across Scotland
- Reducing quality of provision with specific concerns re access
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- Currently there are few targets as recommended in SIGN/ HIS/QIS standards and therefore insufficient means of demonstrating recommended AHP quality provision is being met/ maintained.
- Awareness of the value of AHPs is variable in relation to the contribution AHPs can make to the strategic objectives of different sectors.
- The integration agenda will require new agencies to understand the value of AHPs and what quality AHP services are.

What do we mean by Quality Service Standards?

¹ **AHPs as agents of change** in health and social care; The **National Delivery Plan** for the Allied Health Professions in Scotland 2012-2015. Scottish Government, Edinburgh, June 2012.

Quality Service Standards are distinct from the unique professional, clinical and practice standards held by each of the twelve Allied Health Professions. Quality Service Standards are a generic set of standards which will help us to

- establish a baseline of service provision to
 - protect service users,
 - support joint service design and planning by AHP leaders in the NHS and partner organisations and
 - support consistent and equitable AHP service provision.
- provide succinct information to national, regional and local policy makers about who we are, what we do and the quality outcomes we add value to.
- act as a basic service benchmarking and/or audit tool for AHP services.
- inform evidence base on good practice and outcomes for service users.

Our work will support the Scottish Government Healthcare Quality Ambitions for safe, effective person centred care.