

# SFHHP1

## Identify hazards and assess risks to health, wellbeing and safety from information provided by individuals



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### Overview

This standard concerns assessing information provided by individuals, and identifying hazards and risks to health, principally major communicable and non-communicable diseases, and non-infectious hazards such as pollution and tainted water supplies. The individuals providing the information may be healthcare practitioners, environmental health practitioners, other professionals, or members of the public. Information may be volunteered to you or you may seek it from individuals. Other standard in this suite cover: assessing risks by analysing surveillance data; gathering specific information from individuals to inform risk assessment concerning a particular incident; providing information or advice on how to prevent or control risks.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 communicate with individuals in a vocabulary, manner and pace that is appropriate to them, to encourage a free flow of information
- P2 ask pertinent questions to gather sufficient information from individuals to enable you to make a realistic assessment of the hazards and risks in the situation
- P3 seek further information where appropriate to make an accurate assessment of the risks by:
  - P3.1 gathering additional information about the situation, such as by meeting the individual, or by visiting premises
  - P3.2 consulting with colleagues, or accessing expert information in other ways, about the hazard and the risks
- P4 act with an appropriate degree of urgency, relative to the nature of the hazard and the level of risks that are indicated
- P5 assess the completeness of the information you have gathered and the reliability and validity of the sources of information
- P6 consider the patterns indicated in the information, and compare what you have been told with what is known about normal patterns and about relevant hazards
- P7 weigh up all the information you have gathered and assess
  - P7.1 the risks to individuals and to the wider population
  - P7.2 how the hazard and risks are likely to be perceived by the public
- P8 where action is necessary, communicate with colleagues (in your own organisation or in partner organisations) in a timely way about the hazard and risks
- P9 make an accurate record of the information you have gathered and the actions you have taken

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your legal powers and duties, and your responsibilities and accountability under organisational and professional policies and protocols
- K2 the importance of working within the limits of your own competence and seeking support and advice when faced with situations outside your competence
- K3 sources of advice and expertise that can be drawn upon to assess risks of hazards not commonly found
- K4 the roles and responsibilities of local health and social care agencies and departments and other agencies at regional and national level
- K5 the importance of, and how to achieve, effective communication with a range of individuals about hazards and risks in order to protect the population's health and wellbeing
- K6 how to employ questioning techniques, with a range of people, lay and expert, to assess a health protection challenge
- K7 good record keeping criteria and how to write contemporaneous notes
- K8 local known risks or hazards, and epidemiology
- K9 the nature, causes and occurrence of major communicable and non-communicable diseases due to infectious and non-infectious environmental hazards
- K10 the principles of the modes of transmission, latency, incubation periods, exposure, herd and individual immunity
- K11 different modes of exposure to environmental hazards, and the effects on health of acute and long-term environmental hazards
- K12 the nature of outbreaks and incidents and how they are managed
- K13 how to assess the validity and reliability of information
- K14 the principles of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention programmes as they relate to major communicable and non-communicable diseases due to infectious and environmental hazards
- K15 the methods employed in assessing, investigating and communicating risks to health and wellbeing including long-term exposure to non-infectious environmental hazards

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### Additional Information

#### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB3 Protection of health and wellbeing

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Developed by	Skills for Health
Version number	1
Date approved	June 2010
Indicative review date	June 2012
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Skills for Health
Original URN	HP1
Relevant occupations	Health, Public Services and Care; Health Professionals
Suite	Health Protection
Key words	health protection, assessment, public health