

The Occupational Therapy Pillar:

A supplementary resource of the Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Critical Care Professional Development Framework (CCPDF)

Professional Endorsements





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Introduction

Background

Welcome to the **Occupational Therapy Pillar** of the Allied Health Professionals (AHP) Critical Care Professional Development Framework (CCPDF). This pillar has been written to complement the existing <u>AHP CCPDF</u> published by the Intensive Care Society and should not be used in isolation. You should familiarise yourself with; and benchmark yourself against the CCPDF before you move on to using the occupational therapy specific pillar.

The expectation during the development of the CCPDF was that each AHP discipline would create their own pillars, focusing first on four professions – dietetics, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy. The intention is that AHPs have a common language and a consistent approach but also develop our own discipline specific skills.

These frameworks should be used alongside existing occupational therapy specific frameworks, such as <u>RCOT Professional Standards for occupational therapy practice</u>, <u>conduct and ethics</u> and the <u>RCOT</u> <u>Career Development Framework</u> to ensure all occupational therapists continue to meet the standards of practice and continue to develop within the field of occupational therapy.

The Occupational Therapy Pillar is a guide to the development and progression of occupational therapists within the field of critical care clinically, managerially, educationally and from a research perspective. The descriptors are broad due to the variability of critical care units nationally and the descriptors can be interpreted within the relevant setting. This allows for an element of flexibility in utilisation and can be used to meet the needs of different types of critical care services.

There is a wide range of experience in this area of practice, and there has been a recent expansion of critical care occupational therapy posts nationally. As such, the occupational therapy pillar will focus both on critical care occupational therapists new to critical care as well as promoting progression for occupational therapists already at specialist or advanced level within this field.

Occupational therapy is still an emerging area in many critical care units across the United Kingdom. Therefore, role promotion, as well as best practice service provision, are key focus areas for critical care occupational therapy.

Document aims

The document aims to:

- Facilitate the structured development and career progression of **post registration** occupational therapists working in a critical care environment.
- Help occupational therapists in critical care to track their progress on skills which they are required to possess.
- Highlight the areas for development to gain an expert level of knowledge and skill in critical care occupational therapy.
- Provide support to access opportunities and resources for professional development.

Document scope and structure

The existing AHP CCPDF focuses on 4 key areas (called pillars), that are integral to all AHP's working in critical care. These being:

- Clinical Practice
- Leadership
- Facilitation of learning
- Research, evidence, and improvement

This occupational therapy pillar has been split into two distinct subdivisions:

- Quality Service Provision of Occupational Therapy in Critical Care relates to meeting best practice as per guidelines and the evidence-base but also the review of service provision and development of occupational therapy interventions locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally
- The Development of Occupational Therapy within Critical Care Settings addresses areas such as occupational therapists' involvement in national and international critical care organisations and the publications of guidelines and standards. The pillar seeks to ensure occupational therapists are visible and influence the national and international agenda in critical care rehabilitation and recovery. The National Occupational Therapy Critical Care Clinical Skills and Knowledge Framework will be provided in a separate document. This document will be written to complement this occupational therapy pillar.

Allied Health Professionals: Critical Care Professional Development Framework

AHP Specific Pillars: Occupational Therapy Pillar

The National Occupational Therapy Critical Care Clinical Skills and Knowledge Framework

Assessment process

These documents can be used as part of the annual appraisal and personal development review.

The levels of development for the Occupational Therapy pillar are in accordance with the CCPDF:

- Foundation
- Specialist
- Advanced
- Expert

The assessment process will be the same as the CCPDF, where you will need to provide evidence of the level you feel you are performing at, based upon the expected skill set defined at each level. The descriptors provide examples of achievement at a certain development level but are not exhaustive. To achieve a level, all descriptors within a column do NOT need to be met. The levels are not reflective of different agenda for change bandings. If it is felt that an occupational therapist could be placed in more than one column, then score as the lower column and use the development needs as part of objective setting in order to reach the higher level.

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Quality Service Provision of Occupational Therapy in Critical Care

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
Impact of critical illness on occupation	Understands the basic principles of how occupational performance can be affected by critical illness. Demonstrates a basic knowledge of how occupational performance can be affected by organ system support, pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of critical illness. Demonstrates a basic understanding of how occupational deprivation can occur in the critical care environment and the impact of this on patients' wellbeing. Incorporating the above, demonstrates a basic understanding of when critically ill patients are appropriate for occupational therapy involvement.	Demonstrates a broad knowledge of how occupational performance can be affected by the pathophysiology associated with critical illness. Demonstrates a broad knowledge of how occupational performance can be affected by organ system support, pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of critical illness. Demonstrates a broad understanding of how occupational deprivation can occur in the critical care environment and the impact of this on patients' wellbeing. Incorporating the above, demonstrates a broad knowledge of when critically ill patients are appropriate for occupational therapy involvement. Participates in the development of local guidelines for when critically ill patients are appropriate for occupational therapy involvement (i.e. screening tools, referral criteria).	Demonstrates an advanced, evidence- based knowledge of how occupational performance can be affected by critical illness pathophysiology and is able to analyse and interpret the impact of this. Demonstrates an advanced, evidence- based knowledge of how occupational performance can be affected by organ system support and is able to analyse and interpret the impact of this. Provides opinion to the MDT on ways to improve occupational performance and minimise the effects of occupational deprivation via pharmacological interventions that may help manage critical illness pathophysiology. Incorporating the above, demonstrates an advanced, evidence- based knowledge of when critically ill patients are appropriate for occupational therapy involvement. Leads development of local guidelines for when critically ill patients are appropriate for occupational therapy involvement (i.e. screening tools, referral criteria).	Recognised as an expert in how occupational performance can be affected by critical illness pathophysiology and organ system support. Provides expert opinion to the MDT on ways to improve occupational performance and minimise the effects of occupational deprivation via pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions that may help manage critical illness pathophysiology.

Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
 Able to complete a holistic comprehensive clinical assessment of patients' previous and current level of occupational performance (self-care, productivity, leisure) with support / clinical supervision. Able to assess risks and contraindications associated with this patient group / clinical environment to determine appropriateness of rehabilitation with support / clinical supervision. Able to identify and complete appropriate assessment and screening tools to identify physical impairments present (i.e. motor / sensory impairment) with support / clinical supervision. Able to identify and complete appropriate assessment and screening tools to identify cognitive / behavioural impairments present (i.e. motor / sensory impairment) with support / clinical supervision. Able to identify and complete appropriate assessment and screening tools to identify cognitive / behavioural impairments present with support / clinical supervision. Able to identify and complete appropriate assessment and screening tools to identify cognitive / behavioural impairments present with support / clinical supervision. Able to identify and complete appropriate assessment and screening tools to identify cognitive / behavioural impairments present with support / clinical supervision. 	Able to independently complete a holistic comprehensive clinical assessment of patients' previous and current level of occupational performance (self-care, productivity, leisure). Able to independently assess risks and contraindications associated with this patient group / clinical environment to determine appropriateness of rehabilitation. Able to independently complete assessment and screening tools to further establish physical impairments. Able to independently complete assessment and screening tools to further establish cognitive / behavioural impairments present. Able to independently complete assessment and screening tools to further establish cognitive / behavioural impairments present. Able to independently complete assessment and screening tools to further establish psychological and emotional needs. Participates in the development of local guidelines for the administration of occupational therapy assessment and screening tools (both impairment and occupation-based).	Able to analyse and interpret complex clinical information and assessment results to inform advanced clinical reasoning about occupational performance in critically ill patients. Leads development of local guidelines for the administration of occupational therapy assessment and screening tools (both impairment and occupation-based). Appraises the evidence base on impairment and occupation- based assessments / screening tools to assess occupational performance in critically ill patients.	Formulates expert opinion on which assessments / screening tools should be used to assess occupational performance in critically ill patients. Appraises the evidence for and designs new assessments / screening tools to assess occupational performance in critically ill patients. Makes expert recommendations on standardisation and integration of impairment and occupation- based assessments / screening tools to assess occupational performance in critically ill patients at national / international levels.

Assessment

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
Planning	Able to integrate knowledge of how occupational performance is affected by critical illness with outcomes of holistic comprehensive clinical assessment to form rehabilitation plans with support / clinical supervision. Able to carry out collaborative goal setting with the patient (and family / carer if appropriate) to identify short- and medium-term rehabilitation goals with support / clinical supervision.	Able to independently integrate knowledge of how occupational performance is affected by critical illness with outcomes of holistic comprehensive clinical assessment to form rehabilitation plans. Able to independently carry out collaborative goal setting with the patient (and family / carer if appropriate) to identify short- and medium-term rehabilitation goals. Participates in the development of local protocols for the recording and communication of multi-disciplinary rehabilitation goals. Participates in the appraisal of the quality of patient-centred goal setting locally.	Leads development of local protocols for the recording and communication of multi- disciplinary rehabilitation goals. Leads the appraisal of the quality of patient-centred goal setting locally. Appraises the evidence base for tools to measure rehabilitation goals in critically ill patients and applies this locally.	Formulates expert opinion on how multi-disciplinary rehabilitation goals should be recorded and communicated. Appraises the evidence for and designs new tools to measure rehabilitation goals in critically ill patients. Makes expert recommendations on standardisation and integration of rehabilitation goal measures at national / international levels.
Intervention	Demonstrates a basic knowledge of occupation- based interventions (incorporating self-care, productivity and leisure) that may be carried out with critically ill patients in the areas of physical and cognitive rehabilitation, and to optimise psychological and emotional wellbeing.Demonstrates a broad knowledge of occupation- based interventions (incorporating self-care, productivity and leisure) that may be carried out with critically ill patients in the areas of physical and cognitive rehabilitation, and to optimise psychological and emotional wellbeing.Demonstrates a broad knowledge of occupation- based interventions (incorporating self-care, productivity and leisure) that may be carried out with critically ill patients in the areas of physical and cognitive rehabilitation programme based on the therapeutic plan and goals set with patient (and/or family/ carers) with support / clinical supervision.Demonstrates a broad knowledge of occupation- based interventions (incorporating self-care, productivity and leisure) that may be carried out with critically ill patient (and/or family/ carers).Participates in the development of local protocols for occupation- based intervention / rehabilitation with critically ill patients.		Demonstrates an advanced, evidence-based knowledge of occupation- based interventions (incorporating self-care, productivity and leisure) that may be carried out with critically ill patients in the areas of physical and cognitive rehabilitation, and to optimise psychological and emotional wellbeing. Appraises the evidence base for occupational therapy interventions with critically ill patients. Leads in the development of local protocols for occupation-based intervention / rehabilitation with critically ill patients.	Recognised as an expert in knowledge of occupation- based interventions (incorporating self-care, productivity and leisure) that may be carried out with critically ill patients in the areas of physical and cognitive rehabilitation, and to optimise psychological and emotional wellbeing. Appraises and contributes to the evidence base (research) for occupational therapy interventions with critically ill patients. Makes expert recommendations on occupational- based interventions / rehabilitation to be carried out with critically ill patients at a national / international level.

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
Evaluation	Able to review progress and collaboratively update patients' rehabilitation goals and therapeutic plans for intervention as appropriate with support / clinical supervision. Able to complete a holistic comprehensive clinical reassessment of patients' current level of occupational performance (self-care, productivity, leisure) upon discharge from critical care with support / clinical supervision. Able to handover outcomes of holistic comprehensive clinical reassessment and updated individualised, structured rehabilitation programme to appropriate ward staff as per local protocols with support / clinical supervision. Able to identify and complete appropriate outcome measures with support / clinical supervision to measure effectiveness of occupational therapy intervention in critical care.	Able to independently review progress and collaboratively update patients' rehabilitation goals and therapeutic plans for intervention as appropriate. Able to independently complete a holistic comprehensive clinical reassessment of patients' current level of occupational performance (self-care, productivity, leisure) upon discharge from critical care. Able to independently handover outcomes of holistic comprehensive clinical reassessment and updated individualised, structured rehabilitation programme to appropriate ward staff as per local protocols. Able to independently complete appropriate outcome measures to measure effectiveness of occupational therapy intervention in critical care. Participates in the development of local protocols for handover to ward on step-down of patients from critical care. Participates in audits of occupational therapy practice (i.e. against national guidelines).	Appraises the evidence base for occupational therapy outcome measures with critically ill patients. Leads the development of local protocols for handover to ward on step-down of patients from critical care. Leads audit of occupational therapy practice (i.e.against national guidelines) and makes recommendations for service improvement following Organises and formulates data to identify gaps in service for business cases to secure funding for occupational therapy service provision.	Appraises the evidence for and validates existing / develops new outcome measures for occupational therapy in critically ill patients (research). Makes expert recommendations on processes for ward handover on step-down of patients from critical care at a national / international level. Makes expert recommendations on audit of critical care occupational therapy practice at a national / international level.

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
Discharge planning	Able to complete holistic assessment of occupational performance prior to hospital discharge, and collaboratively set ongoing goals and individualised, structured rehabilitation programme for the community (as appropriate) with support / clinical supervision. Able to ensure discharge arrangements, including referrals for ongoing care, are in place prior to discharge with support / clinical supervision.	Able to independently complete holistic assessment of occupational performance prior to hospital discharge, and collaboratively set ongoing goals and individualised, structured rehabilitation programme for the community (as appropriate). Able to independently ensure discharge arrangements, including referrals for ongoing care, are in place prior to discharge. Able to recognise barriers to discharge and issues that may delay discharge and highlight these to the multi-disciplinary team. Participates in the development of local protocols for discharge pathways (in line with NICE CG83) to ensure smooth transition from hospital to home for critically ill patients.	Able to lead and coordinate discharge of complex patients using advanced clinical reasoning. Able to anticipate and address barriers that may delay discharge. Leads the development of local protocols for discharge pathways (in line with NICE CG83) to ensure smooth transition from hospital to home for critically ill patients.	Makes expert recommendations on the development of local / national discharge pathways (in line with NICE CG83) to ensure smooth transition from hospital to home for critically ill patients.
Follow-up clinics / services	Understands the basic principles of how occupational performance is affected by post- intensive care syndrome (PICS) in patients who have been critically ill. Able to describe the need for critical care follow up clinics / services and identifies the benefits to patients. Developing an understanding of occupational therapy input into critical care follow up clinics / services from shadowing senior staff.	Demonstrates a broad knowledge of how occupational performance is affected by post- intensive care syndrome (PICS) in patients who have been critically ill. Able to explain the occupational performance issues that a patient may present with at critical care follow up clinics / services. Able to independently provide occupational therapy input into critical care follow up clinics / services. Participates in the development of occupational therapy provision into critical care follow up clinics / services locally.	Demonstrates an advanced, evidence- based knowledge of how occupational performance is affected by post- intensive care syndrome (PICS) in patients who have been critically ill. Appraises the evidence base for occupational therapy in critical care follow up clinics / services. Leads the development of occupational therapy provision into critical care follow up clinics / services locally.	Recognised as an expert in how occupational performance is affected by post-intensive care syndrome (PICS) in patients who have been critically ill. Appraises and contributes to the evidence base (research) for occupational therapy in critical care follow up clinics / services. Makes expert recommendations on occupational therapy provision in critical care follow up clinics / services at a national / international level.

The Development of Occupational Therapy within Critical Care Settings

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
Education and training	Participates in departmental training and takes up local learning opportunities. Seeks out organisational critical care courses / training and or higher education opportunities.	Undertakes masters level modules / courses which pertain to critical care occupational therapy practice, research and leadership skills. Advises and educates multidisciplinary and junior occupational therapy staff on the impact of critical care on occupational performance, participation and engagement.	Has a master's degree and consistently works at this level. Links with universities consistently teaching on relevant modules at BSc or masters courses. Is consistently involved with research related to occupational therapy within the critical care setting. Has links with the research boards in own organisation. Takes the lead locally and nationally in the provision of highly skilled teaching and education on the provision of occupational therapy within the critical care environment (e.g. assessment / intervention and treatment for all multidisciplinary team members).	Has a doctoral level (level 8) qualification (such as a PhD) or is working towards one. Supervises others to undertake study at doctoral level (level 8). Leads and carries out own research related to occupational therapy within the critical care setting. Participates / leads on research boards within organisation. Provides expert teaching, training and education nationally and internationally on the provision of occupational therapy promoting occupational performance including: independence, participation and engagement.
Promotion of occupational therapy / sharing good practice	Understands and able to describe their role in the delivery of occupational therapy within the critical care environment. Able to recognise where service change is required and highlight need to lead therapists. Feeds back to peer group regarding service improvement ideas.	Promotes the role of a critical care occupational therapy within the organisation, explaining the core principles. Is able to collect robust evidence to demonstrate service requirements. Is able to highlight service needs to relevant stakeholders.	Engages and influences relevant leadership in order to drive change and develop critical care occupational therapy services. Leads and works with regional critical care networks to advance the role of AHP's with critical care. Leads on audits and quality improvement projects critically appraising the occupational therapy role against given criteria. Promotes the role of occupational therapy through the presentation of data to relevant stakeholders and at local and national conferences.	A recognised leader seen as an expert within external environments promoting occupational therapy nationally and internationally. Fosters innovation and creativity developing innovative services at organisational and regional level. Shares knowledge and ideas by regularly presenting own research / data at local and national conferences. Engages relevant stakeholders to promote and develop occupational therapy critical care services regionally, nationally and internationally.

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
Evidence base – national and international guidelines	Aware of the key points in national guidelines and considers these in clinical practice. (E.g. NICE CG83, QS158, GPICS 2019, CG103, QS63, NG108, QS194) Is aware of the ABCDEF care bundle and its use within the critical care unit. Is aware of the key principles and guidelines pertaining to the management of the upper limb. (E.g. RCOT 2015, RCP 2018) Is aware of the key principles of mental health legislation pertaining to relevant areas of the UK and how this applies to clinical practice. • Mental health Act 1983 (2007) • Mental capacity Act 2005 • Care Act 2014 • Mental Health Order 2004 (Northern Ireland) • Mental Health (Scotland) Act 2015. Is aware of the key principles of the assessment and treatment of patients in prolonged disorders of consciousness (PDOC); RCP 2020 Aware of the key principles of local guidelines / protocols & policies and able to apply them into clinical practice.	Able to describe the principles of the guidelines and demonstrates incorporation into own occupational therapy practice. Contributes to the design and development of local protocols and guidelines through audits against set criteria; with guidance.	Critically appraises the available guidelines to identify the strengths and limitations in order to formulate local guidelines and protocols. Leads on the development and implementation of local / regional guidelines and protocols. Audits own / team practice against local and national guidelines.	Designs and develops national and international guidelines and policies relating to the practice of occupational therapy in the critical care setting. Has influence at a local, national and international level in strategically planning and developing growth of critical care occupational therapy services through benchmarking staffing levels, coordinating the audit process and determining the need for change or improvement.

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
National and international critical care / occupational therapy societies	Is aware of the role national and international professional critical care societies and groups have in supporting and promoting the role of occupational therapy. (E.g. ICS, ICSI, WICS, SICS, ESICM, SCCM) A member of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT).	Regularly attends study days or conferences run by local / regional, professional societies and critical care networks and demonstrates how learning is applied to own practice. Member of the RCOT critical care forum (specialist section).	Attends and presents own work at national and international interest groups submitting abstracts of own service development / quality improvement innovations. Member and contributor to the RCOT critical care forum (specialist section) Regularly contributes to the regional critical care network & AHP network. Member of other societies such as ICS.	A recognised occupational therapy leader in critical care seen as an expert within external environments. Regularly presents own research / project work at national and international interest groups. Takes the lead in chairing / is on the committee of the critical care occupational therapy forum (RCOT specialist section) Part of the leadership in the regional critical care networks / AHP networks. An integral member / leader of occupational therapy working groups, nationally and internationally, within multiple multidisciplinary societies implementing change and improvement projects.

Self-assessment grading tool

This self assessment grading tool has been provided to allow individuals to mark the grid with a simple "x" for each pillar and subsection when undertaking an appraisal.

Name of Professional: Date of Assessment:

	Foundation	Specialist	Advanced	Expert
The Development of Occupational Therapy within Critical Care Settings				
Evidence base– National and International Guidelines				
National and International Critical Care/ OT Societies				
Promotion of Occupational Therapy/ Sharing Good Practice				
Education and Training				
Quality Service Provision of Occupational Therapy in Critical Care				
Impact of critical illness on occupation				
Assessment				
Planning				
Intervention				
Evaluation				
Discharge planning				
Follow up clinics / services				

Comments:

Suggested evidence and	resources
Clinical evidence	 Anonymised patient records of complex patients and reflection pertaining to the occupational therapy management of the patient Case reviews Supervised documentation
Reflective evidence	 Reflective reports / feedback Journal club reflection / evidence of critical appraisal Witness statements 360-degree review from colleagues / patients Reflective reports from study opportunities
Objectives / appraisals	 Annual appraisal with objectives and personal development plan (PDP) set and ultimately PDP and objectives completed in line with the OT pillar
Educational evidence	 Evidence of teaching / training sessions delivered with completed evaluation feedback forms Evidence of developing educational programmes for critical care teams Contribution to critical care strategies and initiatives Evidence of reviewing local / national / international guidelines in relation to local practice Study day / conferences attendance / abstract submission / speaker / evidence of CPD and course certificates / presentation certificates / reflective reports Certificates from completion of higher education courses
Quality improvement projects	 Service evaluation and improvement Evidence of contributing or leading on the writing of guidelines locally / nationally / internationally Audit reports such as reviewing national and international guidelines standards versus own practice Evidence of contributing to or leading regional or national critical care working groups, committees, or organisations
Research	 Research project involvement / proposals Poster and / or publications of own work Evidence of coaching or mentoring staff Membership of specialist interest group / professional society Membership of research board / research groups

Glossary

- ESICM European Society for Intensive Care Medicine
- GPICS The Intensive Care Society and Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine. Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services. Edition 2. June 2019
- ICS Intensive Care Society
- ICU Intensive Care Unit
- NICE CG 83 Clinical Guideline 83 Rehabilitation after critical illness in adults
- NICE QS 158 Quality Standard 158 Rehabilitation after critical illness in adults
- NICE CG 103 Clinical Guideline 103 Delirium: prevention, diagnosis, and management
- NICE QS 63 Quality Standard 63 Delirium in adults
- NICE NG 108 NICE Guideline 108 Decision-making and mental capacity
- NICE QS 94 Quality Standard 194 Decision-making and mental capacity
- PDOC Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness
- RCOT Royal College of Occupational Therapy
- RCP 2018 Royal College of Physicians National Guideline Spasticity in adults: management using botulinum toxin
- RCP 2020 Royal College of Physicians National Clinical Guidelines Prolonged disorders of consciousness following sudden onset brain injury
- SCCM Society for Critical Care Medicine
- SICS Scottish Intensive Care Society
- WICS Welsh Intensive Care Society

Notes



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