



**ALPS & the Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Seminar
11th September 2007**

ALPS- The issues of Interprofessional assessment

Brief:

The following case studies highlight issues that ALPS may encounter in the interprofessional assessment of its pre registration students in practice. The assessments ALPS is addressing are Communication skills, Team Working and Ethical Practice.

ALPS proposes that students in practice receive feedback on their performance from practice assessors from their own profession, other professions, service users and carers (or patients) and other students.

Using the three case studies below each group will be allocated one case study to discuss and make notes on the key factors involved in students receiving feedback from the stakeholders listed above. The assessments discussed are formative (unless otherwise stated).

It is recognised that current practice in assessment across the professions means that some professions acknowledge the views of other professions practice assessors and of service users and carers – whilst for some professions interprofessional assessment is a new concept.

It is assumed that the final decision about the student passing or failing their placement rests with the assessor from the students own profession.

You are required to feedback your key points to the larger group.

Note:

It is recognised that across the sixteen professions involved in ALPS the term 'mentor/assessor' in practice varies. For purposes of consistency ALPS recognises the person who assesses the student in practice as the Practice Assessor. This term will be used throughout this document.

CASE STUDY ONE

Julie, a second year nursing student, is mid way through a 6 week placement. As part of her interprofessional learning and education she is required to obtain feedback on both her team working and communication skills from other professionals in the multi disciplinary team with whom she is working. At the mid point evaluation of progress it is found that two of the four formative assessments undertaken raise concerns about Julie's performance in relation to communication skills and in particular how she interacts/communicates with other professionals. One of these assessments was by a doctor, one by a nurse. A meeting has been set up as part of her intermediate interview to discuss her progress and her practice assessor has asked that her university tutor come to this meeting.

What are the issues in relation to her progress and the process of assessment particularly the contribution of other professionals' views?

CASE STUDY TWO

Paul, a Physiotherapy student, is undertaking a second year placement. To date there have been no major problems reported on Paul's communication, team working or ethical practice skills.

As part of his learning and assessment on placement Paul is required to obtain the views of service users and carers he has treated on placement about his communication skills. His University tutors have made it clear to students that on placement the students are to collect 3 formative assessments from service users and/or carers. One service user has raised concern about Paul's communication skills. She has found him condescending, a poor listener, and he has seemed unwilling to respond to her wish to mobilise at a slower pace. A meeting has been set up with his practice assessor to discuss this issue and how this will contribute to his overall assessment.

What issues should be explored and how will the service user views contribute to the overall assessment?

CASE STUDY THREE

Fred is a final year social work student who is on placement in a Community Mental Health Team. The team has a manager from a nursing background but the on site practice assessor is a social worker. The manager has attended Fred's mid – placement meeting and has expressed concerns about the medical advice that Fred is giving to service users. Other members of the team have said that Fred is acting inappropriately and stepping outside his social work role and negatively affecting the cohesion of the multi disciplinary team. The psychologists and the social workers do not have a problem with Fred's approach but the psychiatrist and the nurses are very concerned about his ethical base and his team work. The feedback from service users about Fred's practice has been mixed, with one refusing to keep appointments with him but three others speaking very positively about him to the practice assessor. Not surprisingly Fred is in agreement with the social workers and the psychologists and he is claiming that he is being unfairly assessed.

You are asked to identify the areas in which Fred might raise his concerns about the assessment process.
