

## What if I feel uncomfortable with a student asking me to assess their skills with a particular service user?

Students have been briefed to approach a practice assessor prior to conducting any assessment to ensure the assessor feels the situation or service user appropriate.

## What do I have to do?

Support and assess your students in the usual way. Encourage your students to seek naturally occurring opportunities for interprofessional assessment or peer assessment. You may also like to use these scenarios for assessment if you consider it enhances your student's feedback. Any students with a mobile device have been trained to use the device and the assessments and will be able to demonstrate their use to you, or complete the assessments with you. It is a student-led process.

If you would like to know more, an Information for Assessors section is available on the ALPS website. This contains details of the training students have received, the Contract of Use, Guidelines for Use and the Common Competency Maps. You can access the website via the following link [www.alpsweb.net](http://www.alpsweb.net)

If you have any other queries please contact ALPS at:

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### References:

Boud, D. (2000) 'Sustainable Assessment: rethinking assessment for the learning society'. *Studies in Continuing Education*, 22: 1511-167.

Department of Health (2008) *A High Quality Workforce; NHS Next Stage Review*, Available at [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_085840](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_085840)  
Date accessed 17.12.2008.

*NHS Yorkshire and the Humber Healthy Ambitions Initiative*. Available at <http://www.healthyambitions.co.uk/index.html> Date accessed 2.12.2008.



**Assessment & Learning  
in Practice Settings**

**A Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning**

# ALPS

## Assessment & Learning in Practice Settings

**Information for practice assessors**

**Working together for excellence in learning & teaching**

## What is ALPS?

Assessment and Learning in Practice Settings (ALPS) is a five year programme funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

Five universities are involved in this programme; the Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield and Leeds (lead partner), and Leeds Metropolitan and York St John Universities. Within these institutions the ALPS programme spans 16 health and social care professions.

The aim of ALPS is to enhance the competence and confidence of health and social care students so that they are able to improve standards of care provided to patients or service users.

The ALPS programme is developing three ways in which confidence and competence of students is being improved:

1. By promoting interprofessional assessment of core competences
2. By testing the viability of the use of mobile devices to deliver assessment and learning in the practice setting
3. By encouraging service user and carer involvement in student feedback

The combination of these ALPS strands of work is to encourage continued reflective practice by the student from a variety of feedback sources which enhances Lifelong Learning Skills (Boud, 2000).

## What are the ALPS interprofessional assessments?

The students have assessments to complete whilst on their practice placement. The students are encouraged to gain feedback from assessors of their own profession, from other qualified professionals (interprofessional), their peers (student colleagues), service users and carers.

The assessments reflect criteria identified from three ALPS Common Competency Maps of Communication, Team Working and Ethical Practice. The 16 professions and five Universities have agreed that the Common Competences occur across all the professions. The Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies of all the 16 professions involved support ALPS in the use of these Common Competences for interprofessional formative assessment in practice.

## How does ALPS work with my organisation?

ALPS has a partnership arrangement with the NHS Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority who support the ALPS programme of work. Interprofessional assessment and the potential for remodelling placement experiences are of particular interest to placement providers.

All organisations involved have been informed and consulted strategically and operationally about the ALPS programme, and are willing to work in partnership.

## We already have assessments for students, what are the ALPS assessments for?

The formative, and where appropriate, summative assessments, are to provide students with feedback from a variety of sources. Students should be encouraged to reflect on the formative feedback prior to an action planning session with their practice assessor.

(Practice assessor is the terminology that ALPS uses to refer to those professionals in practice qualified to assess undergraduate students.)

## What is the added value of ALPS assessments?

1. Improve Lifelong Learning Skills and Continuing Professional Development
2. Promote self assessment for learning
3. Support the NHS Yorkshire and the Humber Healthy Ambitions initiative and the NHS Next Stage Review (DoH, 2008) by encouraging interprofessional working through clinical pathways
4. Link with the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework, so assessment of students can be used as evidence for a practice assessor's portfolio.

## What are the mobile devices and what do they do?

The students have been issued with a mobile device. They have access to the internet and are connected to their university email. The students can use their device to access Reusable Learning Objects (such as video clips) to support their learning in practice. In addition to this the devices also have an audio and camera function which can be used to gather information as part of the assessment.

## What about the issues of having a camera/audio function on the device?

The students have signed a Contract of Use with their university for the mobile devices (see [www.alpsweb.net](http://www.alpsweb.net) for details) that specifies appropriate use of these functions. ALPS would also emphasise that these students are in your practice areas and will be working under your guidance/your organisation's policies and procedures. Therefore if there is a specific incidence where you feel uncomfortable with a student using any function of an ALPS mobile device you can ask the student to stop. Please explain your reason to the student. All students have been briefed that if at any point they are asked to stop using the device they must do so.