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The language of the Common Competency Maps has proved particularly useful in addressing deficits in student performance. Although experience has shown that OT placement educators usually have little difficulty in identifying whether students are performing at an acceptable level in relation to their communication and team working skills, identifying specific performance criteria that need addressing is much more difficult. The Maps have been used by OT educators at York St John University to engage students and placement educators in detailed analysis of where the students’ performance was not meeting the required standards.

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The mobile devices also enhanced the students’ work-based learning as they received informative videos (e.g., correct way to use a hoist) and were able to capture evidence of their acquired skills. ‘I did use it (the device) for photos… so the splints I made, I took photos of the practice ones I did on my educator, so that was useful (to have a record).’

Students also saw the benefit of using their mobile device on the wards: ‘It can be tricky logging on to PCs in the hospital because you aren’t always given a login and password – so being able to look something up, like what piece of equipment to use, on your mobile device is really useful and time-saving.’

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