Royal College of Physicians

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services Accreditation Scheme

PRSAS assessor role description

PRSAS accreditation is a supportive process of evaluating the quality of clinical services against established standards. It promotes improvement through highlighting areas of best practice and areas for change, encouraging the continued development of the clinical service.

The assessment team is a multidisciplinary group of professionals including nurses, physiotherapists and lay representatives. The team oversee various aspects of quality based on the PRSAS standards including leadership, clinical effectiveness and safety.

Assessors are the face of the accreditation programme and play a crucial role to promote and champion PRSAS standards and high quality PR care across the UK. Assessors provide a supportive, fair and comprehensive assessment for services to promote their ongoing improvement.

Assessors are expected to:

- Provide open communication with services, building a productive relationship.
- Undertake a remote assessment of services, involving the online review of evidence submitted and providing feedback to services through the website.
- Undertake a site assessment of services involving the inspection of site facilities, interviewing staff, reviewing service evidence, and contributing to the assessment report.
- Respond to queries from quality assurance assessors and the service after an assessment to ensure the assessment report is consistent and fair.
- Develop an expert understanding of the accreditation programme, standards, and evidence requirements.
- Show commitment to acquire the knowledge and skills in the assessment process.
- Provide constructive and fair feedback to services and receive feedback from others.
- Attend at least one assessor review day annually and remote update sessions.
- Undertake further roles as agreed with the PRSAS office, such as lead assessor, quality assurance assessor, annual renewal assessor, or service trainer.
- Any other duty related to the accreditation of services, as reasonably determined with the PRSAS office.

Person specification

Assessors are expected to:

- Be actively involved in the provision of a pulmonary rehabilitation service
- Have experience in pulmonary rehabilitation improvement
- Be a strong representative of the accreditation programme and accreditation as a method of improvement
- Have experience of building high quality working relationships, including working with remote teams
- Be skilled at providing support, advice, and critique in a professional and constructive way
- Show integrity at all times and be in good standing with their employer
- Actively work towards accreditation within their service
- Abide by the assessor code of conduct.

Role specific requirements

Physiotherapist/occupational therapist assessors should:

- Be registered with the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC)
- Hold a certificate of specialist training in pulmonary rehabilitation or demonstrable experience of wring in pulmonary rehabilitation services
- Have at least 5 years' experience at a senior level in a pulmonary rehabilitation service.

Nurse assessors should:

- Be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Hold an appropriate academic qualification in their speciality (preferable)
- Have at least 5 years' experience at senior nurse level in their speciality or demonstrable experience in other roles supporting pulmonary rehabilitation developments.

Time commitment

Each assessment typically requires two days of input; one for remote review of evidence and one for the on-site assessment. Assessments take place across the UK and assessors are expected to assess a minimum of three services a year. Assessors express interest on a voluntary basis, and are given at least 8 weeks' notice if they have been selected for an assessment.

Assessments typically require an overnight stay, and assessors are encouraged to take professional/study leave for their time and are paid expenses in line with our policies.

Training

Successful applicants will undergo a detailed remote training programme, including the opportunity to observe an assessment. The office team and other experienced assessors will be on hand to guide you through the process.

The RCP positively encourages applications from suitably qualified and eligible candidates regardless of sex, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, transgender status, religion or belief, marital status or pregnancy and maternity.

The RCP is all about our people – our members, our staff, our volunteers, and leaders. We educate, influence, and collaborate to improve health and healthcare for everyone and know we can only do this by being inclusive, encouraging and celebrating diverse perspectives. That's why welcoming and having people who represent the 21st-century workforce, and the diverse population of patients we serve, is so important to us.