



Pearson

Healthcare Apprenticeship End-Point Assessments

Addendum to Specification 1st May 2020

Guidance on Temporary Discretions.

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has announced Covid-19 temporary discretions for the three healthcare standards listed below:

- Level 2 Healthcare Support Worker (ST0216)
- Level 3 Senior Healthcare Support Worker (ST0217)
- Level 5 Healthcare Assistant Practitioner (ST0215)

These agreed temporary discretions relate specifically to the observation assessment and can be found on the individual standard pages of the Institute's website, as well as within the corresponding Skills for Health issued guidance.

Agreed discretion

The observation assessment may be replaced with a reflective statement written by the Apprentice and validated by an Expert Witness.

This will be followed by a question and answer session of up to 30 minutes between the Apprentice and an Independent End-point Assessor. (IEA)

The other components of these End-Point Assessments will be unchanged as follows:

Component	Change as Result of Agreed Discretion
Multiple-Choice Test	None
Observation of Practice	Reflective statement validated by expert witness Question and answer session with independent assessor (30 mins, 10% increase at discretion of Assessor)
Evidence portfolio and interview	None

General Points

This alternative method (the agreed discretion) is not mandatory. The Apprentice retains the option to pause EPA, until such time that an onsite practical observation can take place safely.

Retakes/resits can be undertaken via this alternative method and/or paused to await the original observation method.

There is no change to grading outcomes from those detailed in the assessment plan for the observation method - Pass only.

This discretion will be in place until further notice.

Expert Witness

Each apprentice's reflective statement must be validated by an Expert Witness.

The Expert Witness must:

- Be a registered professional (this may include the Apprentice's line manager)
- Be operating at least one level above the Apprentice
- Have worked with the Apprentice on at least three occasions
- Provide as a minimum:
 - Name
 - Job role
 - Signature
 - PIN number or name of Registered Body

The Expert Witness will be asked to sign a Declaration for the reflective statement, confirming that:

- The Expert Witness has read (or listened to) the reflective statement in full
- It is a true reflection of the Apprentice's ability, which they have observed in practice (they may not have seen the actual activity/activities referred to).
- They have worked with the Apprentice on at least three occasions in the past three months
- They are both an appropriate person and Registered Professional and can therefore counter sign the reflective statement.

The Expert Witness is not required to participate in the Question and Answer session.

Reflective statement

Apprentices will produce a holistic written account of how they have demonstrated relevant outcomes while undertaking a single or a range of clinical or therapy-based activities.

Where possible this should be based on an activity or range of activities undertaken in the last three months.

Apprentices should focus their statement as a minimum on the mandatory outcomes aligned to the observation assessment, which are included within each assessment plan (ie the wording in bold) as well as in the specification for each End-Point Assessment. Apprentices are also encouraged to attempt all wider outcomes (ie the wording not in bold).

(The wider outcomes aligned to this assessment will be addressed in the 30min question and answer session along with any outcomes the Apprentice has attempted which require further development/exploration.)

It is expected that the reflective statement should be a maximum of 2000 words, as the focus should be on quality of evidence, not quantity.

The reflective statement can be written. Audio or video recorded statements will also be accepted to support reasonable adjustments and to acknowledge this is in place of a practical observation (therefore it is not an assessment of an Apprentice's ability to write).

Question and Answer Session

The question and answer session must be conducted by the IEA. It must only be taken remotely in a controlled environment, ie in a quiet place away from the apprentices' everyday working environment with no interruptions or distractions. Apprentices are permitted to have their reflective account with them in the session, but they must not have any further notes.

The IEA will agree the date for the question and answer session with the Apprentice. Apprentices must submit their Reflective Statement at least five working days before the agreed date to their training provider who will then upload it to ACE360.

The IEA will make all usual identification checks, including checking of the apprentice's photo id e.g. driving license, passport or work ID at the pre-assessment briefing session

The duration of the session must be a maximum of 30 minutes, but this can be extended by 10% at the IEA's discretion.

The IEA must have heard/read the reflective statement before conducting the session.

The questions asked will be designed to underpin or expand on the evidence provided in the reflective statement.

The IEA needs to ask questions to confirm, explore or clarify what the Apprentice has written in the Reflective Statement. It is not necessary for the IEA to ask question on every KSB if these have been fully met in the Reflective Statement.