

CODP



College of Operating Department Practitioners

Welcome to our August CODP newsletter. We hope you find the information useful and informative.

Allied Health Professionals Workforce Supply

The College, together with the thirteen Professional Bodies that form the Allied Health Professionals (AHP's), are participating in a series of workshops hosted by Health Education England. These aim to explore current and potential future issues linked to workforce supply.

The April workshop promoted the Allied Health Professions as a career and some initiatives to elevate AHP careers were also explored.

The initiatives included:

- The WOW show
- Inspiring the Future
- Routes into AHP Careers

Read more about these initiatives below.

The WOW Show

The WOW Show is a fast-moving interactive online magazine show. It aims to give young people fresh perspectives on the world of work.

The live pilot show had an estimated audience of 25,000 - 30,000 students viewing in their schools! And an estimated further 90,000 students were watching on demand.

A live WOW Show was broadcasted on 26 June 2019 showcasing AHP careers. It also

included a special feature on Operating Department Practice.

A huge thank you to ODP Rowell Falco from Great Ormond Street Hospital! He did a tremendous job in promoting Operating Department Practice.



[▶ Watch the WOW Show now](#)

Inspiring the Future

This initiative allows schools to connect with inspirational volunteers from the world of work with ease.

It revolutionises the way young people get insights into exciting and unique careers and inspires them to be ambitious.

The College is also developing an outreach guide. This guide will include materials to support promotional event at local High Schools and Further Education Colleges. Any ODP can use these materials who volunteer for inspiring the future.

[▶ Find out more](#)

Routes into Allied Health Professionals Careers

This online resource is in development and aims to raise the profile and stimulate applications to AHP careers.

The resource will provide a point of access to all the different pathways into AHP careers. It will also make use of the various existing information, sources and resources.

The primary target audience is under 18's but covers people in other situations. These could include people such as those wanting to change career or return to practice.

The resource will feature interactive tools and animations and used in the WOW AHP Schools Project. It can be found on the Health Careers website.

The July workshop centred upon exploring routes into the Allied Health professions. This included Return to Practice and recruiting from the Armed Forces community.

Also demonstrated at the workshop was the AHP Virtual Reality Project. Health Education England is developing immersive 360° virtual reality technology to show the everyday work of many AHP professions. It is hoped that the Operating Department Practice will be one of the professions used in the project.

Summer Clinical and University Educators (CUE) Forum

The Summer CUE Forum was on 26 July 2019 and hosted by Edge Hill University (Manchester Campus).

Topics explored on the day included:

- the Reducing Pre-Registration Attrition and Improving (RePAIR) Programme
- AHP Workforce Supply Project
- Learner Supervision and Assessment in Clinical Practice
- feedback from the final ODP Degree Apprenticeship Trailblazer meeting.

Many thanks to Advanced Clinical Practitioner Joanna Finney who gave a fascinating presentation on the Advancement of the Operating Department Practitioner and the Impact upon High Quality Patient Care. Thanks also to Student ODP Megan Eastwood from Edge Hill University who shared her recent experiences of her international placement in China.

Independent Panel Report: Post-18 Review of Education and Funding (2019) (Augar Review)

The Council of Deans of Health have produced a video on the Augar Review.

The report only contains recommendations. Implementation in the current political climate is uncertain. There is low risk to healthcare programmes specifically and some potential benefits.

In relation to the financial implications of the recommendations for ODP students, generally positive in the short term yet mixed in the longer term depending on income and individual factors.

▶ [Watch the Augar Review video](#)

ODP day 2019

The second National ODP day was held on 14 May 2019.

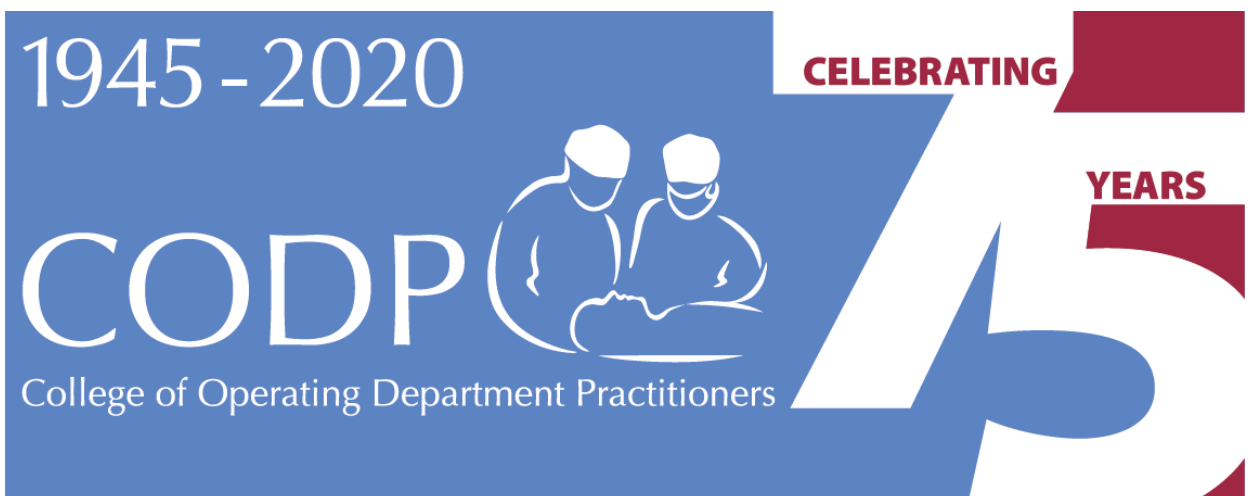
This was a huge success with events held up and down the UK including stands in shopping centres, schools and career promotions. Social media was also alive with #ODPday posts.

As part of this year's National ODP Day, the Professional Council met with Dr Rosena Allin-Khan MP at the Houses of Parliament. This was an opportunity to get ODPs on the Parliamentary agenda.

The Professional Council also attended an event at the Old St Thomas' Operating Theatre Museum where we also talked to the public about our role in healthcare.

ODP Day is now fixed as an annual event and we will be building on its success next year by also celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the College (more on that below).

75th anniversary of the College of Operating Department Practitioners



It's not too early to start preparing for National ODP Day 2020!

As well as being the 3rd National ODP Day, it will also be the 75th anniversary of the founding of the College.

Our communications team have designed this lovely new graphic (above) to celebrate the

75th anniversary of the College. We will be using this throughout 2020.

Leading up to celebrations next May 14th, we will be publishing some historical vignettes about the development of our profession.

In the meantime, you can download a timeline that shows the key milestones since the College was founded!

 [Download the CODP timeline](#)

Special class status

Since a case in Scotland, where an ODP managed to argue for special class status, UNISON's Pensions Unit has assisted some members in looking to overturn NHS Pensions' refusals to recognise their role as an ODP as equivalent to a Nurse for Special Class Status (SCS) entitlement purposes.

So far, the typical NHS Pensions response is that an ODP is not entitled to SCS because this role does not need a nursing qualification.

Unfortunately, the NHS Pension Scheme regulations do not define a Nurse. We are aware that this definition has been challenged successfully at the Pensions Ombudsman in a case involving a Nursery Nurse. However, it was overturned on appeal by the Department of Health and Social Care at the High Court on appeal.

The College of Operating Department Practitioners' position is that the qualification for ODP and a Nurse are comparable. If SCS applies to a Theatre Nurse, it should apply to an ODP with an equivalent job description. We continue to make this argument when we are supporting our members taking their cases forward.

We are only able to take a complaint to the Pensions Ombudsman on this point once individuals have exhausted the NHS Pension Scheme's Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure.

Through the partnership between CODP and UNISON, our Pensions Unit will continue to assist our members wherever possible in these scenarios on a case by case basis. Despite the outcome in one case in Scotland, it is important to remember that the prospects of a successful outcome are limited given the scenario outlined above.

However, UNISON does not agree that an ODP should be treated any differently to a Nurse for pension purposes in cases of identical job specifications. This is the interpretation being taken by both NHS Pensions and the Department of Health and social care.

Please also note that SCS can only apply if a member contributed to the NHS Pension Scheme prior to March 7 1995.

Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

The College continues to work with NHS England as part of the Chief Professions Officers' Medicines Mechanisms Programme.

However, pressures on parliamentary time as a result of Brexit is leading to uncertainty about when necessary legislative steps could be taken in relation to the programme.

The College continues to be active members of the project, submitting all information as required and will continue to update members as the project progresses.

ODPs in the AHP family in Scotland

The College recently submitted a paper to the associate chief health professions officer at Scottish Government making the case for including ODPs as AHPs in Scotland.

It was noted that, since April 2017 Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs) have been part of the wider AHP family in England, coming under the remit of the Chief Allied Health Professions Officer.

ODPs are a mobile workforce, both within the UK and internationally, with England being a net exporter of ODPs to other nations, particularly to Scotland where training numbers have traditionally been small cohorts.

Lack of consistency in the professional status of ODPs could act as a barrier for ODPs wishing to practice in Scotland. It could also act as a negative force that encourages ODPs to leave Scotland for England where professional development opportunities are perceived to be greater.

The College recently conducted an on-line survey of members (thank you to all who participated).

Although the sample size was small, the responses were telling with one hundred percent of respondents agreeing to the question: 'I support the inclusion of ODPs in the AHP Family across the United Kingdom'.

The College has now formally requested that ODPs be included in the Allied Health Professions family in Scotland. They have noted that this would provide ODPs with the opportunity to take part in delivering Scotland's health priorities, such as the Active and Independent Living Programme for AHPs. It would also harmonise recognition with colleagues in England, where ODPs have been part of the AHP Family since April 2017.

We will keep you updated on progress made.

ODP leaflets

UNISON has produced a leaflet entitled ODPs: making a real difference to patients.

The leaflet outlines the role ODPs play in patient care and is aimed at other NHS staff and the

public. This leaflet can be used as part of ODP day or at careers events.

There are copies of this leaflet in stock. You can order these through your branch or you can download it.

 [Download the ODP leaflet](#)

Occupation codes used by insurers

The College is aware that as a profession, ODPs are not accurately reflected in the occupation codes used by insurers in the UK.

The College is liaising with the insurance industry to rectify this and either identify Operating Department Practitioners specifically or AHPs more generically.

We will keep you updated on the progress made in our next newsletter.

OneTogether update

The OneTogether Conference takes place on November 7 2019 in Birmingham. Registrations for OneTogether are currently open.

The link to the webpage giving all the details of this event, including a 'OneTogether Registration' link is available below.

Conference Programme

This is the sixth annual conference dedicated to reducing the risk of surgical site infections (SSIs).

This year's conference programme is all around sharing guidance and competency skills in managing and maintaining the sterile field and how this can help reduce SSIs.

There will be keynote speakers from the World Health Organisation, AfPP and sterilisation experts.

OneTogether will launch their fourth Quality Improvement Guide at this event – 'Maintaining Asepsis'.

 [OneTogether conference 7/11/19](#)

Small Steps Awards – 2019

OneTogether also has an award programme! It is designed to recognise, celebrate and share best practice in reducing the risk of surgical site infections.

We are inviting health care professionals to enter. If you or your team have undertaken small steps to improve the care of patients undergoing surgery, OneTogether would like to hear about it!

The closing date for applications this year is September 1 2019,
The winners will be notified by October 4 2019 and will be presented with their trophies at the OneTogether event.

Find out more information about the awards!

 **Small steps awards 2019**

We hope you have found this newsletter useful. If you have any questions please just [get in touch!](#)

UNISON Health Care team