



College of Operating Department Practitioners

Modern Slavery Statement

Year 1

Introduction

The College of Operating Department Practitioners (CODP) is the Professional body for Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs). The CODP provides support and advice to its members on professional, educational and workplace matters. Operating Department Practitioners are predominately employed within Operating Departments working across the three perioperative phases of care: Anaesthetics, Surgery and Post-Anaesthetic Care. However, Operating Department Practitioners are increasingly employed within other clinical areas for example Critical Care and roles including, but not limited to; Leadership, Advanced Practice, Research, Corporate roles and Education.

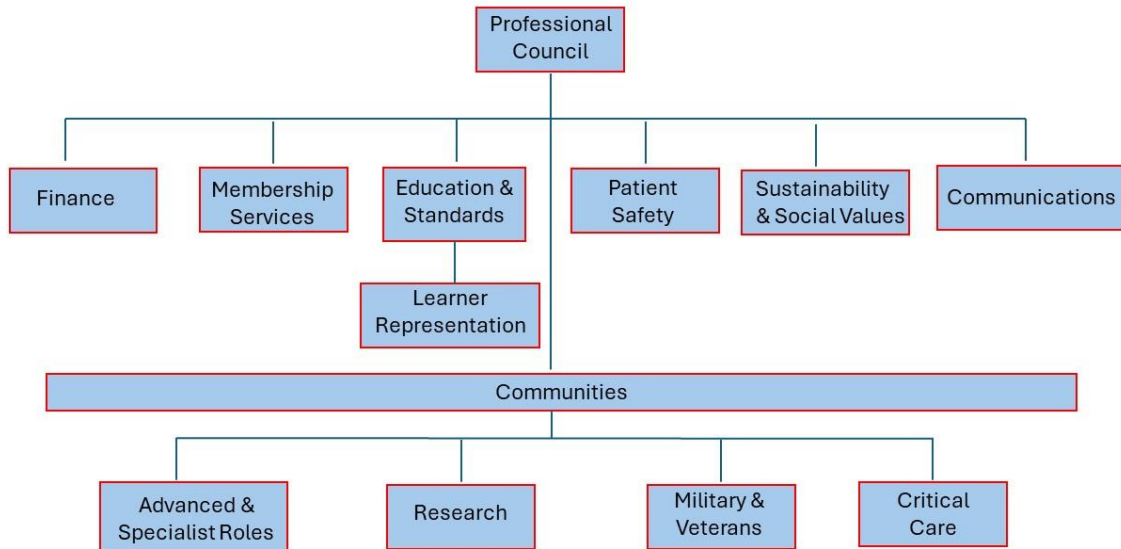
The CODP was founded in 1945 as the Institute of Operating Theatre Technicians. Since 2006, the CODP has been in a working relationship with the trade unions UNISON however, 2024 will see the start of a new chapter for the CODP as it transitions away from UNISON and establishes itself as a standalone independent Professional Body. The CODP currently has a small team of individual ODPs serving on the Professional Council from a variety of roles and backgrounds, with aims to grow the CODP and its work moving forward.

The CODP is committed to supporting international human and labour rights standards, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the United Kingdom's Government's National Action Plan to implement the UNGPs. This statement is designed to satisfy the requirements of Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act (MSA) 2015, by informing members, staff, and public stakeholders about the CODP policies and approach to identifying, preventing and mitigating Modern Slavery, human trafficking, forced and bonded labour and human and labour rights violations in its supply chains.

As an organisation with a turnover far less than £36m threshold, the CODP is not yet covered by the requirements of the UK MSA, although it is acknowledged that the UK Government has committed to changing this. However, given that equipment used by Operating Department Practitioners in the clinical environment is considered high risk for Modern Slavery, the Professional Council of the CODP considers it is part of its human social responsibility to publish this statement. It is also consistent with the CODPs strategic objective to be a leader in sustainability and raise awareness of the wider system in which we as clinical professionals operate.

After describing the organisational structure of the CODP, this statement sets out CODPs approach in addressing modern slavery and human trafficking, and as we are in year one, our goals for 2024 - 2025. Future Modern Slavery statements will review the previous year's actions.

Organisational Structure



Our Supply Chain

Our direct supply chain is small and dedicated largely to provision of services related to running the CODP (stationery, IT support, accounting services) and occasional business travel. The CODP is looking to join a procurement consortium to ensure responsible procurement in the future.

However, the CODP acknowledge that the environment in which Operating Department Practitioners work uses products in high-risk categories. This is demonstrated in the recently published Review of Risk of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking in the NHS Supply Chain (2023) whose findings stated the five most at-risk product groups for Modern Slavery in Supply Chains were: Surgical Instruments; Gloves; Gowns; Uniforms and Face Masks. The primary and secondary supplier locations for these products included China, Pakistan, and Malaysia which are specific areas of concern for Modern Slavery. Cotton products were also identified as high risk including but not limited to products such as dressings, wound care, wipes, hygiene products, furniture, and cleaning products.

Other high-risk categories Operating Department Practitioners may come into contact with include electronics, hospitality, construction, logistics, cleaning, and textile production.

2024 – 2025 Goals

- The CODP aims to develop and implement its own Sustainability Policy / Strategy incorporating a Modern Slavery risk assessment and plan for remedial actions if Modern Slavery is identified.
- The CODP aims to raise awareness of Modern Slavery prevalence in the supply of the products ODPs use in the clinical areas with the aim of increasing responsible procurement through



ODPs and clinical leaders' engaging with their organisational procurement teams and suppliers.

- The CODP aims to engage in research into Modern Slavery in the Operating Theatre Environment with partners in HEIs.

This statement has been approved by the Professional Council of the College of Operating Department Practitioners on 1st July 2024.

Signed by the Sustainability and Social Values Lead: *K Amber* Date: 1st July 2024

Signed by the President of the CODP: *M Donnellon* Date: 1st July 2024