



FACULTY OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



GOOD PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE FRAMEWORK SHORT GUIDE 2016

DEFINITIONS: WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE IS

The practice of public health is defined by the Faculty of Public Health as “the science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society”.

Public health practice comprises the three public health *domains* of Health Improvement, Health Protection and Healthcare Public Health. It includes three underlying *functions*: public health knowledge and intelligence; academic public health; and workforce development.

This is the second edition of this guidance. It builds on the previous Faculty of Public Health publication

Good Public Health Practice – General Professional Expectations of Public Health Professions (2008) and its application. It has been reviewed and updated as necessary in line with developments in professional practice and other relevant guidance.

The guidance is divided into four areas, which reflect the structure of parallel professional documents. They are:

A: Knowledge, Skills and Performance

B: Safety and quality

C: Communication, partnership & teamwork

D: Maintaining public trust

APPLICATION: THE BASIS FOR GOOD PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

This guidance provides the basis for good professional practice in public health. It applies to all members of the core public health workforce, including public health practitioners and specialists and those training to become practitioners and specialists.

This short guide should be read in conjunction with the full guidance [Good Public Health Practice framework – 2016](#) which provides the basis for good professional practice in public health. This is not statutory guidance, nor is it intended to be an exhaustive resource.

The standards in this guidance are designed to be complementary to those contained in other professional codes of practice. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of, and adhere to, other

professional codes of practice and conduct as set by other organisations and statutory regulatory bodies with which you may be registered, or which may apply to your work.

A: KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND PERFORMANCE

Professionalism in public health practice

- 1. You must be competent in all aspects of your work as a public health professional and retain your competence throughout your working life.**
- 2. You must recognise and work within the limits of your competence, seeking further advice and consulting with colleagues where this is required.**
- 3. You must practise within ethical, legal and regulatory limits that apply to your area of public health practice.**
- 4. You have a duty to monitor, protect and improve the health of populations.**
- 5. You must be satisfied that you have valid authority, including consent where informed consent is required for interventions.**
- 6. You are expected to improve and develop your practice continuously.**
- 7. You must be able to receive and act upon feedback on your practice and performance, both positive and negative.**
- 8. You must take care to delegate responsibility to others safely.**
- 9. You must keep records of important decisions, actions and consequences.**

B: SAFETY AND QUALITY

10. **10. You have a duty to safeguard and protect the health and wellbeing of your population,** with particular attention to vulnerable groups within your population. Vulnerable groups may include (but are not limited to) children and young people, people with physical and/or mental health issues, older people and people in disadvantaged communities.
11. **Your duty to vulnerable groups extends to their relatives, carers and partners.**
12. **You must plan and act in accordance with available evidence and use resources effectively and efficiently.** You should ensure that any actions you take or recommendations that you make in the course of your work are based on a clear analysis of the available intelligence and evidence.
13. **You must be professional and ethical in your public health practice at all times.**
14. **You must make sure that you and other professionals are able to be professional and ethical in your and their public health practice.**
15. **You must maintain financial rectitude in all your public health practice dealings.** You must make sure that the funds you manage and/or receive for use in connection with your public health practice are used for the purpose for which they were intended.
16. **You must declare any relevant commercial or financial conflicts of interests you may have..**
17. **You must not allow your own health and wellbeing to affect adversely your professional practice.**
18. **You must have in place arrangements to compensate anybody who may suffer as a result of deficiencies in your work or that of your team.**
19. **You must conduct research (including designing, organising and carrying out research) with honesty and integrity.** If you take part in or arrange clinical trials, or other research involving the public, you must make sure that the individuals concerned give written consent to take part and that the research is not contrary to an individual's interests.

C: COMMUNICATION, PARTNERSHIP & TEAMWORK

Collaborative working: organisational, community and individual

20. **You must work in, and manage, partnerships and teams effectively and with due consideration of others.**
21. **You must make sure that relevant information is shared.** This includes a duty of candour: you must ensure that information is not withheld, where it may affect a decision or course of action that would have an impact of health.
22. **You must make sure information to be shared is meaningful.**
23. **You must respect the right of people to decline to take part in interventions, initiatives, teaching or research even if it may be of benefit to them.**
24. **You must maintain your focus on the effectiveness of interventions.**
25. **You must treat colleagues, individuals and communities fairly and with respect.**
26. **You have a professional responsibility to support trainees and colleagues in your work environment,** through formal supervision, formal and informal mentoring, and modelling professional public health practice.

D: MAINTAINING PUBLIC TRUST

Probity and protecting the public

27. **You must ensure at all times that your standards of practice justify the public's trust in your work**, and in the work of the wider public health profession. Probity is the cornerstone of good public health practice. The components of probity are:
 - **Integrity:** Put your service obligations above your personal interests
 - **Honesty:** Be truthful and open
 - **Objectivity:** Base advice and decisions on rigorous analysis of evidence
 - **Impartiality:** Act solely according to the merits of a case without prejudice.
28. **You must disclose professionally facts which may have a bearing on your professional performance.**
29. **You must be vigilant about issues concerning data confidentiality and data protection.**
30. **You must respond to concerns and complaints.**
31. **You must be honest and objective when assessing the performance of those you have supervised, trained or worked with.**
32. **You must be honest and trustworthy when writing reports, and when completing or signing references, forms, reports and other documents.**
33. **You must co-operate with legitimate requests for information from official organisations monitoring public health.**
34. **You must respond, when and where you are able, in emergencies.**
35. **Your advertising of your services must be truthful, honest, legal and decent.**





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