

The current and potential contribution of allied health support workers to public health

Study aim was to develop a greater understanding of the current and potential contribution that allied health support workers (AHSWs) make to public health as part of their daily work with individual patients.

Data collected from a total of 254 AHSWs and 196 AHPs

Study recommendations

- AHSWs should be encouraged to fully recognise their existing and potential contribution to the public health agenda.
- AHPs should gain a greater understanding of which public health activities the AHSWs are already engaged in, and which ones they could be involved in.
- Public Health England, trusts and clinical departments should take a strategic approach towards identifying which opportunities allied health support workers have, and potentially could have, to engage in public health activities.
- All allied health professional bodies should review the guidance they give their members about effective engagement in the public health agenda.
- Health service provider organisations, should ensure that their allied health support workers are enabled to develop the knowledge and skills to competently and effectively engage in this agenda.

Copy of the report is available on www.alliedhealthsolutions.co.uk

Domain	Reported level of activity routinely undertaken by AHSWs
Healthcare Public Health	Supporting self-management
	Rehabilitation and enablement
	Support for managing chronic conditions
	Readmission within 30 days
Health Protection	Screening programme
	Infection control
	Appropriate use of antibiotics
	Radiation protection
Health Improvement	Falls prevention
	Dietary advice
	Promoting the value of smoking cessation
	Promoting value of physical activity
	Supporting those with diabetes
	Support for those with alcohol related problems
Wider determinants	Promoting healthy environments
	Supporting vulnerable communities

Key: Level of activity

Medium (30 - 49% of respondents)	
Low (10 -29% of respondents)	
Very low (< 10% of respondents)	

