

Do you know the new recognition and requirements for education, training and job descriptions for your CSSD staff?

Over the last two years the Institute of Decontamination Science (IDSc), led by Geoff Sjogen, National Chairman, has been lobbying Parliament about the recognition of decontamination staff with regard to their 'job family' and also the importance of education and training for these staff. At the end of last year IDSc were successful in gaining a change in the job family and banding for decontamination staff. This put them into the Modernising Scientific Careers framework; recognised as scientists and not as members of the domestic staff within the healthcare profession. This therefore meant that staff within decontamination services would require a recognised education, training and a career framework.



'All relevant members of staff have been fully trained in decontamination protocols' [p47]

As stated within the document the IDSc has recommended accredited training courses for all decontamination professionals (including Anglia Ruskin University validated qualification frameworks – see link below) and these can be found on the institute's website, go to: <http://www.idsc-uk.co.uk> and follow the link on the tab to the education section: <http://www.idsc-uk.co.uk/education.php>

The IDSc has also developed generic healthcare science job templates, along with national profiles from which job descriptions for medical device decontamination professionals can be developed, these can also be found by following the link to the education section on the IDSc website.

Over time this will bring all medical device decontamination professionals into the same group as healthcare science staff groups with the support and networking that this will provide and consequently raise the overall standards of decontamination within specialist surgical theatres for all AfPP colleagues.

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Links

Managing Medical devices: Guidance for healthcare and social service organisations

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/groups/dts-bs/documents/publication/con2025143.pdf>

Institute of Decontamination Sciences Website:
<http://www.idsc-uk.co.uk>

Institute of Decontamination Sciences Educational Framework and Healthcare Science Generic Job Descriptions: <http://www.idsc-uk.co.uk/education.php>

Anglia Ruskin University: Medical Device Decontamination - Educational Framework:

http://www.anglia.ac.uk/ruskin/en/home/faculties/fhsce/about/departments/allied_health_and_medicine/decontamination_of.html

In order to achieve this IDSc had to demonstrate the importance of the right education and training for these staff to ensure they have the correct knowledge and skills to undertake the important task of decontamination of reusable invasive medical devices and the consequences for patients if this was not achieved. IDSc have been working over the past few years to develop accredited education and training at a higher education level to ensure staff have the underpinning knowledge and skills to undertake correct decontamination of reusable invasive medical devices.

The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) (regulating medicines and medical devices) recent publication 'Managing Medical devices: Guidance for healthcare and social service organisations' April 2014 stated:

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