

Introduction to SEQOHS accreditation for OH physiotherapy services

What is SEQOHS?

SEQOHS stands for Safe, Effective, Quality Occupational Health Service and is a set of standards and a voluntary accreditation scheme for occupational health and OH physiotherapy services. SEQOHS accreditation is the formal recognition that a service has demonstrated that it has the competence to deliver against the measures in the SEQOHS Standards. The SEQOHS standards are categorised into six domains:

- A: Business probity
- B: Information governance
- C: People
- D: Facilities and equipment
- E: Relationship with purchasers
- F: Relationship with workers

Why does SEQOHS matter?

SEQOHS enables services to identify the standards of practice to which they should aspire, acknowledges and credits the good work being done by safe and effective occupational health services, and provides independent validation that they satisfy standards of quality.

Which OH physiotherapy services can register with SEQOHS?

As part of the launch of the 2015 SEQOHS standards, SEQOHS has opened the scheme to occupational health physiotherapy services. SEQOHS is accepting applications from both stand-alone services, and from OH physiotherapy services which are part of a wider OH service. To be accredited, services would need to employ an ACPOHE registered professional physiotherapist in the OH department.

The Accreditation Process

Stage One: self-assessment (6-24 months)
The service undertakes an online self-assessment, which support it to identify areas for improvement. The service collates evidence and submits for assessment.
Stage Two: Remote assessment (3 months)
SEQOHS assessors review the evidence remotely and provide feedback to the service. The service responds to the assessors remotely and provides additional evidence if required.

Stage Two: Onsite assessment
The assessors visit the service, tour the facilities, meet the staff and review the evidence with the service. Services are either deferred or accredited. Deferred services have up to six months to provide evidence against identified key areas.
Stage Two: Annual Renewal
The service is accredited for five years subject to an annual renewal of accreditation. The annual renewal is designed to assess the service's continued compliance with the standards.

How long does it take to become accredited?

This will depend on a number of factors, including the size of a service, the amount of work required, and how much time a service can dedicate towards SEQOHS. It is expected that services become accredited within two years, while the average time to become accredited is 20 months.

How much does SEQOHS cost?

The cost of stage one is dependent upon the number of sites a service operates from:

Service type	Number of sites	Stage 1 annual fee (whilst completing stage 1)	Stage 2 annual fee (whilst completing stage 2)
Single handed provider	1	£250	£250
Small service	1 – 7*	£1,200	£2,400
Large service	8+	£2,000	£3,300

*** Unless providing OH services to 145,000 or more workers, in which case a service would be considered a 'large service'.**

The stage two annual fee is applicable when a service signs off their self-assessment and enters stage two of the assessment process. The fee covers the cost of the initial assessment and the annual renewal assessments, averaged over five years.

What does the annual fee include?

The annual fee includes a place at a How to Prepare training day, access to the self-assessment tool, the action planning tool and the knowledge management system, which contains examples of best practice across accredited OH services.

Any questions?

If there is anything you remain uncertain about, please do not hesitate to contact the SEQOHS Accreditation Team:

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