

A Guide to producing an effective PPE risk assessment in relation to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and the current Coronavirus pandemic and the key aspects to consider.

- Useful tips to take into consideration when completing an assessment
- Key terms for a risk assessment
- The steps to carrying out a PPE risk assessment

Our Top Tips

Before carrying out our risk assessment we suggest you consider the following points and tick them off once you assessed the situation:

Conflicting and unclear guidance on how on and when to use PPE

- are your policies up to date and adhering to the latest government guidance in relation to PPE?

Donning and doffing of PPE unsafely

- are staff trained in the safe practices of PPE? Are they able to don and doff PPE safely before and after attending visits?

Service users unable to communicate & inform PPE decision making, due to illness

- are processes in place to ensure PPE decision making is continually reviewed for each service user as changes occur with their health? after attending visits?

Suitability of the PPE

- is single use PPE likely to be used more than once due to a lack of PPE?

Storage of PPE

- is PPE stock being stored correctly in line with company policy? (for example in a dry, clean place)

Disposal of PPE

- are there clear processes in place for the safe disposal of PPE in light of the coronavirus pandemic?

Supplies of PPE

- are there sufficient stock levels of PPE to support the service? Are orders being made in a timely manner to ensure replenishment of stock? Is there a list of the social care

Key terms for a risk assessment

Hazard

A hazard is something that can cause harm, i.e. poor lighting, obstructed walkways, patient handling

Risk

The chance, high or low, that someone could be harmed by a hazard together (likelihood) with any indication of how serious the harm could be (impact)

Likelihood

Probability of the risk occurring (high, medium, low)

Impact

An estimate of the harm that could be caused

Control Measure

Actions that are in place to prevent, eliminate or reduce the occurrence of a hazard that has been identified

Action

Further control measures that must be put in place to prevent, eliminate, or reduce the occurrence of a hazard that has been identified

The steps to carrying out a PPE risk assessment

1

List all the **hazards** associated with PPE and the coronavirus pandemic in your workplace

2

Concentrate on real **hazards** - those that are most likely and could cause the most harm, such as:

- Lack of PPE
- PPE not being used correctly by staff
- Contamination and disposal of PPE

3

Evaluate the **potential risks** associated with each of the hazards including the likelihood and impact of each hazard

4

Identify any **control measures** that are already in place for each hazard to highlight how the risk may be mitigated, i.e.:

- PPE training for staff
- Regular orders of PPE
- Contact details of suppliers

5

As well as control measures, further **action** may be required to mitigate the risk and these must be documented within the risk assessment:

- Contact details of government suppliers
- Alternative sources of PPE

6

Actions must be assigned and completed by responsible staff, in a timely manner, and regular review of the risk assessment conducted