

Forensic competencies

This document is to be used by trainees, supervisors and Directors of Advanced Training to support trainees/Fellows-in-training in the Certificate of Advanced Training in Forensic Psychiatry in developing competent performance in forensic psychiatry practice. The forensic competencies articulate the desired outcome of training and provide a reference point for performance standards.

Medical expert	
a	Apply knowledge and skills in the assessment and management of people with psychiatric disorders and forensic issues including an understanding of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • links between offending and psychiatric disorder, gender, personality, cultural factors • influence of the legal and criminal justice system upon the individual.
b	Demonstrate the ability to comprehensively assess and competently manage adults with psychiatric disorders in a range of forensic contexts and settings.
c	Demonstrate the ability to apply core principles of risk assessment and management including an understanding of the therapeutic use of security.
d	Demonstrate the ability to apply contemporary research, psychiatric knowledge and treatment guidelines to forensic patient care.
e	Demonstrate understanding of the interfaces between mental health and relevant criminal and civil legislation.
Communicator	
a	Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with a range of patients, carers, multidisciplinary teams, general practitioners, colleagues and other health professionals, legal professionals and legal bodies. This includes an ability to formulate and express expert opinions.
b	Demonstrate a clear understanding of the role of the expert witness in legal contexts.
c	Ability to identify and resolve conflict which arises in the course of forensic psychiatric work. To deal constructively with conflict with patients, carers, colleagues or other professionals, including a capacity to use supervision effectively to assist with this process.
d	Demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal skills to improve patient outcomes in forensic contexts.
Collaborator	
a	Participate effectively in multidisciplinary teams, as both member and leader, involved in the management of people with psychiatric disorders and forensic issues.
b	Collaborate effectively with other professionals and agencies involved with people with psychiatric disorders and forensic issues.
c	Demonstrate the ability to work respectfully with patients with forensic issues, their families and carers.

Manager	
a	Demonstrate an understanding of forensic service systems and the role of forensic psychiatrists within mental health, criminal justice and legal systems.
b	Demonstrate the ability to prioritise and allocate resources for people with psychiatric disorders and forensic issues efficiently and appropriately.
c	An understanding of systemic aspects of risk, including the roles of incident reporting and of investigations into major incidents.
d	An understanding of clinical governance in the forensic mental health context, including the roles of outcome measures and audit processes.
Health advocate	
a	Awareness of the impacts of social exclusion, disadvantage, discrimination and stigma in forensic mental health and preparedness to seek to minimise these impacts.
b	Capacity to advocate for the needs of people with psychiatric disorders and forensic issues from an informed and evidence-based approach and to deal constructively with biased and destructive attitudes.
c	Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply the principles of prevention, health promotion and early intervention to reduce the adverse effects of offending and the criminal justice system on people with psychiatric disorders.
d	Awareness of the impacts of victimisation in forensic mental health and readiness to minimise these impacts.
Scholar	
a	Educate patients, families, health care professionals and the wider community about forensic mental health.
b	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of critical appraisal and research methodology in forensic mental health and apply this in clinical and forensic contexts.
c	Demonstrate commitment to continuing professional development in forensic psychiatry.
Professional	
a	A knowledge of the principles of ethics as relevant to the field of forensic psychiatry, including an awareness of the problems of dual agency and a capacity to recognise the boundaries and limits of psychiatric expertise.
b	Demonstrate reflective practice and the ability to use feedback constructively including an ability to take a proactive stance to supervision and mentoring.
c	Demonstrate the ability to balance personal and professional priorities to ensure sustainable practice and wellbeing.
d	Cooperation and compliance with regulatory professional bodies.

Revision Record

Contact	Training team		
Date	Version	Approver	Description
17/08/16	v1.1	N/A	Revision record and purpose of document added.
11/2015	v1.0	SATFP	New document.
August 2018	NEXT REVIEW		