



Mission Statement Regarding Job Descriptions and Role Definitions from ASCN UK

In response to the challenges and opportunities presented by the current focus on levels and scope of nursing practice nationally, and the workforce and down grading challenges within nursing, the Association of Stoma Care Nurses UK (ASCNUK) have devised, as part of the Advancing Stoma Care services Project (ASCS), job descriptions for registered and non-registered clinical roles in stoma care. These job descriptions will have competency frameworks to support you and your clinical colleagues to ensure you are working within your scope of practice and are supported by relevant legal and ethical employment safeguards.

These guidance documents have been devised using recognised frameworks produced by the RCN and the NMC and with employment practice and policy embedded within them. They are intended as recommendations for our professional members to use to safeguard and support their safe practice and as information for employers and other professional organisations.

The job descriptions cover:

- Specialist Stoma Care Nurse, recommendation to be at least band 6.
- Advanced Specialist Stoma Care Nurse, recommended to be at least band 7.
- Lead or Consultant Specialist Stoma Care Nurse, recommendation to be at least band 8a-c.
- Nursing Associates, recommended to be at least band 4 with clear role and competency definition (from NMC) and defined as 'assistive'. RCN.
- Nursing or health care support worker in stoma care, recommended to be at least band 3 and role defined as 'supportive' RCN.

Each job description and competency framework will demonstrate a clear definition of what the role comprises, what skills and education are required/expected and the limits of the scope of practice as well as where accountability and responsibility will lie.

This work is designed to complement the ASCS project, will be added as an addendum to the GIRFT pathway and is designed to protect professionalism and patient safety. YOU are an expert safety critical specialist nurse, and this work will enable your manager to clearly see your level of practice and the competency of all members of the stoma care team. Professionally we must move away from the 'task' focus (they change bags') to a competency framework.