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Title: A competence framework to support the development of the workforce to deliver improved outcomes for patients with COPD and asthma

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Body: Rationale It is estimated that over 3 million people in the UK are living with COPD or related respiratory disease, with less than one third diagnosed and treated. With better awareness and clearer pathways of care focused on improving outcomes, there are implications for planning and developing the workforce. This competence framework identifies the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to deliver improvements. The framework consists of a menu of National Occupational Standards where evidence of competence will ensure practitioners are equipped to deliver respiratory services and promote patient self care and management within their scope of practice, role and responsibility. Method and results In collaboration with Skills for Health, the agency responsible for developing National Occupational Standards in healthcare, a respiratory disease Competence Framework based on functional and performance standards has been developed, that describes what is needed to deliver patient-centred respiratory care. This was informed by an expert group of stakeholders focused on delivery of care across the spectrum of respiratory disease from prevention, detection and diagnosis, through acute and chronic care to end of life care. Conclusion This resource is being used by commissioners, service providers, local networks and workforce planners to inform service and workforce design, thereby supporting the shift of service delivery by a competent workforce, from acute settings into the community.