

Educational Opportunities for Lymphoedema Assistants (LA) and Lymphoedema Assistant Practitioners (LAP)

Continual professional development is a vital part of providing high quality care. Below are some of the educational opportunities that we have identified that are available to LAs and LAPs. This list is not exhaustive and we would welcome information regarding additional ongoing training opportunities.

General Qualifications:

- The Royal College of Nursing course finder for HCA education is a useful tool. <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>
- The level 3 QCF Diploma in Healthcare has superseded the NVQ 3. Anyone with qualifications lower than Level 4 will usually receive the QCF diploma for free. At Level 3 you must be carrying out regular, unsupervised, patient observations to be able to complete one of the compulsory clinical units. You would also need your manager's support for any study leave you need to attend classes should you meet the entry criteria. This can be checked at an initial meeting with the college team.
- Foundation Degrees in Health and Social Care are the most common route to becoming an assistant practitioner and are widely available throughout the country.

Lymphoedema Specific: Taught Courses

- **Lymphoedema Network Wales** Lymphoedema.Network.Wales@wales.nhs.uk
Cimla Health & Social Care Centre, Cimla, Neath SA11 3SU Tel. 01639 862767
Provide a range of courses please the Network for current details:
For band 3 and 4:
 - Chronic Oedema/Lymphoedema Overview/Measuring/Compression Garments
 - Lower Limb Bandaging
 - Skincare
 - Lymphatic Drainage Massage
 - Promoting Exercise and Movement for Individuals with Lymphoedema
 - Managing Lymphoedema in Individuals Who are Obese
For Band 4 working under the supervision of a lymphoedema therapist
 - Casley-Smith MLD Foundation Level Courses
- **Lymphoedema Training Academy** <http://www.lymph.org.uk/>
The training is open to LAs and LAPs working alongside an LTA trained therapist and carrying out prescribed care from the supervising therapist.
Training includes a 3-day Support Worker training and optional 1 day Support Worker review and Fill and Flush Manual Lymphatic Drainage training.
- **Macmillan Lymphoedema Academy** <http://www.macmillan-lymphoedema-association.org.uk>
Individual courses have different acceptance criteria, you would need to provide evidence of study at the required level.

- **The Royal Marsden School** <https://royalmarsdenschool.ac.uk/courses>
 - Lymphoedema Principles and Practice (blended learning)Applicants should currently be caring for patients with lymphoedema
 - Manual Lymphatic Drainage TrainingApplicants should be health or social care practitioners

Katies Lymphoedema Fund

The Fund provides sponsored places on training programmes run at The Royal Marsden School in London. This is available to LAs and LAPs.

Conferences

- **British Lymphology Society Conference** (annually in October) <http://www.thebls.com>
The 2017 conference has additional sessions specifically for LAs and LAPs.
- **National Lymphoedema Conference** (annually in March)
www.mahealthcareevents.co.uk

E-Learning

- **Activa Healthcare** <http://www.activahealthcare.co.uk/e-learning-zone/>
E-courses specifically for HCAs and non-specialists e.g. chronic oedema
- **British Medical Journal** with Lymphoedema Support Network.
Chronic oedema and Lymphoedema course, available
at: <http://learning.bmj.com/learning/module-intro/lymphoedema-.html?moduleId=10029385>
- **Royal College of General Practitioners** with Lipoedema UK and the Royal College of Nursing. Lipoedema Course <http://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/info.php?id=146>

Self-directed learning:

- Current Learning in Palliative Care 15-minute worksheet - Lymphoedema
<http://www.stoswaldsuk.org/media/32961/clip-2.pdf>

Individualised Training

- **Jobst Academy Modules** www.bsnmedical.co.uk
A range of modules that can be combined into a study day including:
 - Lymphoedema Overview
 - Anatomy and Physiology
 - Clinical Manifestations of Oedema
 - Patient Assessment
 - Mild to Moderate Chronic Uncomplicated Oedema
 - Severe and Complicated Oedema
 - Multi-Layer Lymphoedema Bandaging – Theory and Practical
 - Compression Therapy - Theory
 - Measuring for a JOBST garments
 - Palliative Care
 - Obesity
 - Genital Oedema
 - Leg Ulcer Management

