

Detection of Occupational Skin Disease Organisational Standard Operating Procedure (O-SOP)

Purpose of Agreement	The process for detection of occupational skin disease within the working population who are exposed to work processes, substances or activities that put them at risk of developing work-related skin disease
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Number	date	section no.			
1	October	New O-SOP which	h underpins cu	urrent Health Surveillance Policy	Policy Steering Group,
	2022				Clinical Executive Group

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Detection of Occupational Skin Disease

1. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

Occupational skin disease is common. A recent survey in the UK identified 5600 cases of skin disease believed to be caused by work and a further 4100 made worse by work. In excess of 2000 new cases are believed to develop in the UK each year.

In practice, three main types of skin disease are most frequently encountered due to work exposure:

- Irritant Contact Dermatitis
- Allergic Contact Dermatitis
- Contact Urticaria

Of these, irritant contact dermatitis is the most common, but it is important that a correct diagnosis be made as management of the affected individual within the workplace may be quite different depending on the type of disease.

2. SCOPE AND DEFINITION

This process applies to all Occupational Health Advisors (OHA) and trainee Occupational Health Advisors (TOHA) or other clinical staff who are involved in triaging skin health surveillance questionnaires or who carry out skin assessments either via MS Teams or face to face and are responsible for issuing a Skin Surveillance outcome certificate to the manager or responsible person.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT

3.1 Staff at risk of occupational skin disease

All staff who carry out wet work (work involving wet hands or frequent hand washing) or frequent use of gloves will require annual skin checks e.g. clinical staff, housekeeping staff, catering staff

3.2 Responsible person

This is a member of a team who has been given the responsibility by the team manager to coordinate new starter and annual skin checks for all at risk staff.

3.3 Baseline Skin Surveillance Health Questionnaire (SSHQ) and annual checks

On commencement of employment, the manager or responsible person should ensure that they complete a *Skin Surveillance Health Questionnaire (SSHQ) (Appendix A)* for all new employees to establish a baseline record. If no problems with skin are declared or identified, then this document should be filed confidentially with the manager and an onward referral to Occupational Health is not required. If symptoms are declared/identified, then a referral to Occupational Health (OH) is indicated (4. Notifying Occupational Health)

3.3.1 Annual visual checks

The manager or responsible person should conduct a visual skin check every 12 months as routine using *Appendix D*. The SSHQ does not need to be completed every 12 months if no skin problems are seen or declared/identified. If symptoms are declared/identified, then the SSHQ should be completed and a referral to OH is indicated

3.3.2 <u>Declaration of new skin symptoms</u>

A member of staff may declare new skin symptoms e.g. itching, redness, blisters, during their baseline or annual skin check. Staff should be encouraged to report changes to skin condition or symptoms as soon as they appear and not wait for the completion of the annual skin check. If a member of staff reports new symptoms to the responsible person, a new SSHQ should be completed with the relevant information.

If the responsible person is informed of new or changes in skin symptoms and completes the SSHQ, this should be reported to the team manager who will then make the referral to OH.

3.4 UK legislation

In the UK this is an obligation under the COSHH regulations (for substances) and the Management of Health and Safety At Work Regulations

4. NOTIFYING OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

If the member of staff answers "yes" to any questions in the SSHQ and/or the visual check identifies changes/damage/disease, the responsible person should notify the team manager who will make a management referral for the member of staff via the OH portal. The completed SSHQ with the full details of the symptoms and history should be attached to the referral.

4.1 Waiting for an occupational health assessment

Following submission of the referral to OH, and whilst waiting for OH assessment, contact with the suspected material (e.g. handwashing liquid or chemical) or substance (e.g type of gloves or cleaning solution) or work activity (e.g wet work) should be prevented or restricted until OH advice has been received by the manager.

4.2 Occupational Health triage

The SSHQ will be triaged within 48 hours of receipt by OH. The 'next available' appointment will be offered with an Occupational Health Advisor (OHA) to be conducted via MS Teams. The aim is to offer an appointment within 10 working days of triage. The SSHQ will be uploaded and stored securely on the member of staff's OH record on e-OPAS/OH record system.

4.3 Clinical assessment

This initial assessment will be carried out by an OHA via MS Teams using the camera facility so that the affected skin can be seen. The manager should ensure that the affected member of staff has a private room or area to attend this meeting with the OHA and that a camera facility is available for the consultation. The clinical assessment will be documented by the OHA using the Skin Surveillance Aide Memoire (Appendix B) and this will be confidentially stored on the staff record on e-OPAS/OH Record System.

4.4 Face to face assessment

A further face-to-face assessment will be arranged by OH Admin if requested by the assessing clinician.

4.5 Skin Surveillance Outcome Certificate (Appendix C)

This document will be completed and forwarded to the referring Manager detailing the outcome of the initial clinical assessment and recommendations for hand hygiene, glove products, further surveillance, work adjustments or details of any review required. A copy of this certificate will be confidentially stored on the staff record on e-OPAS/OH Record System.

4.6 OH recommendations

Managers or responsible persons to ensure that all recommendations from Occupational Health on the Skin Surveillance Outcome Certificate are put in place where operationally feasible. If any recommendations are not possible, this should be discussed with the assessing OHA directly.

4.7 Risk reduction

In addition to applying recommendations or adjustments advised by the OHA, further risk reduction measures should be applied as indicated for all staff at risk of occupational skin disease. They are:

- Usual hierarchy of risk reduction (elimination, substitution etc)
- Education of exposed staff (regular team talks or awareness sessions)
- Hand washing and drying facilities
- Select appropriate gloves when necessary
- Choose barrier creams and moisturisers that are not sensitisers themselves

5. FURTHER REFERRAL

5.1 GP

If a suspected skin disease or suspected work related skin damage or disease is identified by the assessing OHA, the individual should be advised to visit their GP for further clinical assessment and treatment. A copy of the completed SSHQ can be given to the member of staff to share with their GP.

5.2 OHA review

A follow up assessment may be indicated if adjustments at work have been recommended and/or the member of staff has been advised to see their GP. A

recommended timescale for follow up assessment is 6 weeks from the initial assessment. This gives time for the member of staff to visit their GP and commence an appropriate course of treatment. The skin surveillance Aide Memoire should be completed again by the assessing OHA and confidentially stored on the staff record on e-OPAS/OH Record System. If ongoing work adjustments are indicated (if symptoms persist, treatment is not concluded or to maintain skin improvement), then a further Skin Surveillance Outcome certificate should be completed by the OHA and sent to the referring manager. A copy of this certificate should be confidentially stored in the staff record on e-OPAS/OH Record System.

5.3 Occupational Physician

If no improvements in skin condition or if it is suspected work related skin condition, the OHA should consider a referral to an OH Physician for further clinical assessment and advice.

6. CLINICAL AUDIT

Clinical audit is conducted annually on 10% of total health surveillance questionnaires submitted to OH that declare symptoms of skin disease or damage. The audit tool is linked to the clinical process in assessing the likely presence of occupational skin disease or damage. The audit questions can be found in *Appendix E*.

Skin Surveillance Health Questionnaire

Skin health checks are required on an annual basis for all healthcare workers who are regularly exposed to any of the following: **latex**, **wet work** and exposure to other **materials** or **chemicals** which may cause skin irritation/allergy.

This form should be completed as a baseline (within 4 weeks of starting your role) and if skin symptoms are declared at your annual skin check or sooner. The form should be completed by you and either your manager or responsible person.

Pers	sonai	details:	
Firs	t Nan	ne:	Last Name:
Click	or ta	p here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
	Title:		Work Base:
		ap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
	e of b		Phone number and email:
CIICI	K or t	ap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Glove	es an	d handwashing:	
What	t type	of gloves to do you wear at work: plea	se tick (🗸)
	LATE	ΣX	
	NITE	RILE	
	NEO	PRENE	
	VINY	/L	
	ОТН	ER (PLEASE NAME)	
Hand	dwas	hing:	
Pleas		t if you use the following: please tick (🕏	<u> </u>
		id soap	
	Alco	hol gel	
	Othe	er (please name)	
		dicate if you experience any of the follo	wing on your hands, face, neck or arms? please
tick	r í		
<u>Y</u>	N		
<u></u>	Ш	Itching	
		Redness	
		Broken or cracked skin	
		Blisters	
		Dry skin	
		Have you been diagnosed as having a	
		Have you been diagnosed as having a	n allergy to chemicals contained in gloves?
		If yes, what chemical? Click or tap her	e to enter text.
		Do you experience a metallic taste in	vour mouth?

Ger	eral	health: please tick (✔)
Υ	N	
		Has there been any recent change in your general health?
		If yes, please advise: Click or tap here to enter text.
		Have you have been diagnosed with a skin condition?
		If yes, please advise: Click or tap here to enter text.
		If yes, what treatment do you use for this condition: Click or tap here to enter text.
		If yes, is this treatment effective: Click or tap here to enter text.
		Skin concerns not mentioned: Click or tap here to enter text.
-	•	
Decla	aratio	on (please sign below):
Sigr	ned:	
Prir	nt nar	me:CLICK OR TAP HERE TO ENTER TEXT. Date:Click or tap to enter a date.

APPENDIX B – AIDE MEMOIRE FOR SKIN ASSESSMENT

Clinical Assessment of Occupational Skin Disease

For use by assessing clinician/OHA only

AIDE MEMOIRE FOR SKIN ASSESSMENT	
Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.
OH clinical notes of: CHOOSE AN ITEM.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Dob confirmed:	
Gender:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Skin assessment:	Choose an item.
Data protection checks confirmed:	
Consent and process of informing manager of	
outcome of assessment discussed:	
MCA assessment:	Choose an item.
Manager's email address:	Click or tap here to enter text.
JOB ROLE	
Job title:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Hours of work:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Description of job:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Location:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Date employment started:	Click or tap to enter a date.
Previous employment:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Is a mask worn routinely at work?	Choose an item.
Other PPE?	
DEDBAATOLOGICAL HISTORY	
DERMATOLOGICAL HISTORY	Click or tan have to enter tout
Nature of problem: e.g. Rash, itch, pain, cracking	Click or tap here to enter text.
Site of problem: e.g hands, face	Click or tap here to enter text.
Duration of problem: e.g. Months, weeks	Click or tap here to enter text.
Date symptoms started:	Click or tap here to enter text. Click or tap to enter a date.
Changes to symptoms since started:	Click or tap to enter a date. Click or tap here to enter text.
Current symptoms:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Seen by GP?	Choose an item.
Any prescribed or non-prescribed treatment:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Aggravating factors:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Handwash or moisturising products used in	Click or tap here to enter text.
work: e.g. Brands	chek of tap here to effect text.
Do symptoms improve when not in work?	Choose an item.

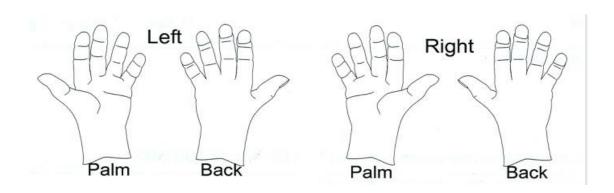
OBSERVED SYMPTOMS:					
	0	1	2	3	4
	Not present	Mild	Moderate -	Moderate +	Severe
Dryness:					
Redness/discolouration:					
Thickening:					
Cracking:					
Flaking:					
Blisters or sores:					
Evidence of scratching:					
Bleeding:					
Infection:					

PAST MEDICAL HISTORY	
Prescribed medication:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Past illnesses or treatments:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Family history of skin disease:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Atopic history: e.g. eczema, asthma, hay fever,	Click or tap here to enter text.
rhinitis	
Allergies:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Previous history of skin problems: e.g. any	Click or tap here to enter text.
treatments	
Psychological history?	Click or tap here to enter text.

AREAS AFFECTED

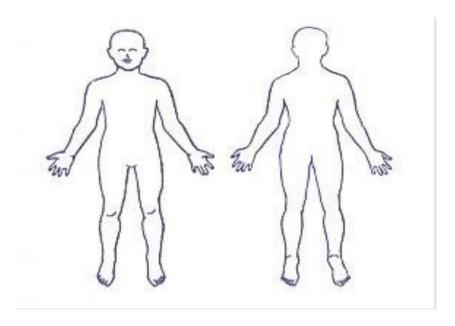
See Appendix H for how to indicate areas

Hands:



n -	_	L .	
KA	_	w	,.
\mathbf{p}	u	v	

Front: Back:



SOCIAL HISTORY	
Hobbies and other activities: e.g use of	Click or tap here to enter text.
vibrating tools	
Household or other activities e.g. Gardening,	Click or tap here to enter text.
cleaning, animal care, care of a dependent	
Type of gloves used in the household?: e.g.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Washing up/marigolds, gardening gloves	
Any other employment?:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Hand hygiene awareness: e.g. Frequent	Click or tap here to enter text.
moisturising,	
Handwash and moisturising products used in	Click or tap here to enter text.
the home or outside of work:	
OUTCOME OF ASSESSMENT	
Satisfactory outcome/no further action:	
Report to the manager with advice on	
exposure controls or restrictions:	
Risk assessment of work activity	
recommended:	
Report to health & safety/IPC:	
Refer to OHP/GP:	
Are symptoms likely to be caused or triggered	Choose an item.
by work activity?	
Statutory health record completed:	Choose an item.
REVIEW	
Not required (routine surveillance)	
6 weeks/other	
Name and designation of assessing clinician:	Click or tap here to enter text.

APPENDIX C – SKIN SURVEILLANCE OUTCOME CERTIFICATE

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH and WELLBEING SKIN SURVEILLANCE OUTCOME CERTIFICATE

	sonal details: t name:	Last name:
	ck or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
DO	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Base:
Clic	ck or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap here to enter text.
Job	title:	Line manager/responsible person:
Clic	ck or tap here to enter text.	Click or tap here to enter text.
are a	locumented below:	assessed for occupational skin disease and the outcomes
	,	assessed for occupational skin disease and the outcomes
are a	locumented below: ce to Line Manager/Responsible pe	rson:
are a	locumented below: ce to Line Manager/Responsible pe t type of gloves to do you wear at w	rson: ork: please tick
are a	ce to Line Manager/Responsible pe t type of gloves to do you wear at w Able to undertake all work associa	rson: ork: please tick ted with their role without restriction
are a	ce to Line Manager/Responsible per type of gloves to do you wear at we have able to undertake all work associated by the condensation of the conde	rson: ork: please tick
are a	ce to Line Manager/Responsible per type of gloves to do you wear at we Able to undertake all work associated adjustments or restrictions	rson: ork: please tick ted with their role without restriction ted with their role with recommended
are a	ce to Line Manager/Responsible per type of gloves to do you wear at we have able to undertake all work associated by the condensation of the conde	rson: ork: please tick ted with their role without restriction ted with their role with recommended
are a	ce to Line Manager/Responsible per type of gloves to do you wear at we Able to undertake all work associated adjustments or restrictions	rson: ork: please tick ted with their role without restriction ted with their role with recommended

Further recommendations and actions:	
Further Occupational Health review has been booked	Click or tap to enter a date.
Advised to see GP before next OH review	Choose an item.
Further clinical assessment with OH Physician has been	Click or tap to enter a date.
booked	
Likely occupational skin disease?	Choose an item.

Assessor's signature:

Print name: Click or tap here to enter text.	Date: Click or tap to enter a date.
Job title: Senior Occupational Health Advisor	

Skin Health Surveillance

Visual Skin Check Tracker (for managers or responsible person)

A visual skin check should be completed annually for each 'at risk' member of staff by the line manager or a responsible person. The aim is to identify early stages of dermatitis or other skin effects caused by skin exposure. The earlier the health effects are recognised and treated, the more likely the sufferer will make a full recovery.

A responsible person is someone who has been proposed by the manager as fit to carry out annual visual skin checks on member of staff. The role of the responsible person is to assess the condition of a new member of staff's skin within the first 4 weeks of starting work by completing a Skin Surveillance Health Questionnaire as a baseline.

Thereafter an annual skin check is carried out and this record is a tracker of such skin checks.

A responsible person can be any member of the team as long as they have received suitable training. They should know:

- the substances or processes in their workplace that could cause skin disease
- the types of skin disease they can cause
- what the early signs of these disease look like
- how exposure happens
- what current controls are in place and the consequences of shortcomings
- what action to take when finding a problem e.g. report to the team manager, recommend a referral to Occupational Health, keep records of observations, keeping records secure

During the annual check, the responsible person should

- check the condition of the skin on the member of staff's hands and forearms for the early signs of skin disease
- keep a secure record of these checks
- advise the member of staff the outcome of these checks or for any remedial action (e.g. avoidance of wet work)
- advise the member of staff if they require further expert assessment (e.g. Occupational Health)

Visual Skin Check Tracker form

Record your baseline and annual skin checks in the table below and keep this record confidential and secure

First name	Click or tap here to enter text.
Last name	Click or tap here to enter text.
Gender	Click or tap here to enter text.
Date of birth	Click or tap to enter a date.
Address and post code	Click or tap here to enter text.
National insurance number	Click or tap here to enter text.
Date present employment started	Click or tap to enter a date.

Skin health checks

Baseline Skin Surveillance questionnaire						
Visual skin check	Date	Туре	By whom	Outcome		
1	Click or tap to	Choose an item.	Click or tap here to	Choose an item.		
	enter a date.		enter text.			
2	Click or tap to	Choose an item.	Click or tap here to	Choose an item.		
	enter a date.		enter text.			
3	Click or tap to	Choose an item.	Click or tap here to	Choose an item.		
	enter a date.		enter text.			
4	Click or tap to	Choose an item.	Click or tap here to	Choose an item.		
	enter a date.		enter text.			
5	Click or tap to	Choose an item.	Click or tap here to	Choose an item.		
	enter a date.		enter text.			
6	Click or tap to	Choose an item.	Click or tap here to	Choose an item.		
	enter a date.		enter text.			

Appendix E – Skin surveillance audit questions to be completed by OH auditor

Audit tool for assessing clinician (OHA)

		Yes	NO
1	Has the initial clinical assessment been carried out via MS Teams?		
2	Has the Aide Memoire (v3 June 2022) been used to document the clinical assessment?		
3	Has the completed Aide Memoire been uploaded to the member of staff's e-OPAS/OH Record System?		
4	If a face to face appointment is indicated, has an appointment been made?		
5	Has clear clinical advice been provided and documented in the OH record on recommendations or restrictions to work activity?		
6	Has clear clinical advice been provided and documented in the OH record on hand hygiene/maintaining good skin condition?		
7	If indicated, have barrier cream samples been advised to employee?		
8	If a follow up appointment with an OHA is indicated, is this documented and an appointment booked on e-OPAS?		
9	If indicated, has the employee been advised to see their GP about skin symptoms?		
10	If indicated, has the employee been advised to see their GP about other symptoms? e.g. stress, other physical illness		
11	If indicated, has member of staff been given a copy of the completed Skin Surveillance Health Questionnaire to take to their GP?		
12	If the skin condition is suspected as work related, has an onward referral to OHP been booked?		
13	Has the manger been advised of the outcome of this assessment including details of follow up appointments?		
14	Has a Skin Surveillance Outcome Certificate been issued to the manager after each clinical interaction with an OHA?		

APPENDIX F - COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR SOLNET

SolNet page

What is dermatitis?

It is a general term used to describe a common skin irritation in the form of itchy, dry skin or a rash.

Other symptoms can include redness, blistering, thickening, inflammation, dryness or cracked skin

Jobs at risk of dermatitis

Any job that requires regular handwashing or handling of chemicals or cleaning agents can be at risk of developing dermatitis

Prevention tips

- always wet hands with warm water before applying soap
- ensure hands are rinsed thoroughly of soap before drying
- dry hands thoroughly especially in between the fingers
- apply fragrance free moisturiser to the hands numerous times each day
- change gloves after each patient contact
- do not wear gloves if you don't need to
- wash hands after wearing gloves
- if hands are not visibly dirty, consider using alcohol gel instead of handwashing

Health surveillance

If you are considered to be at risk of dermatitis at work, you will be placed on a health surveillance programme by your manager. This will involve completion of a baseline questionnaire when you first start work, where your manager or responsible person will check your hands for any symptoms of dermatitis and record their findings. The questionnaire will be held confidentially and securely by your manager. Then you will have an annual visual skin check performed by your manager or responsible person and the date and findings of this will be recorded and kept with your baseline questionnaire. If symptoms are seen or declared by you then your manager will refer you to Occupational Health for further clinical assessment by an Occupational Health Advisor. If you develop symptoms sooner than your annual visual skin check, please let your manager know immediately and an Occupational Health appointment will be arranged for you.

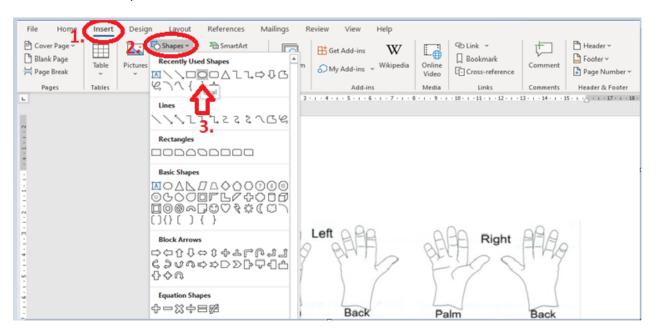
Occupational Health

Baseline and annual skin checks are not carried out by Occupational Health, but by your manager or responsible person. If you do not have any symptoms of dermatitis or any other symptoms of concern, you do not need to be seen by Occupational Health. An occupational health appointment is made for members of staff who declare skin symptoms to their manager or responsible person.

APPENDIX G - HOW TO INDICATE AFFECTED AREA ON SKIN QUESTIONNAIRE (for clinicians)

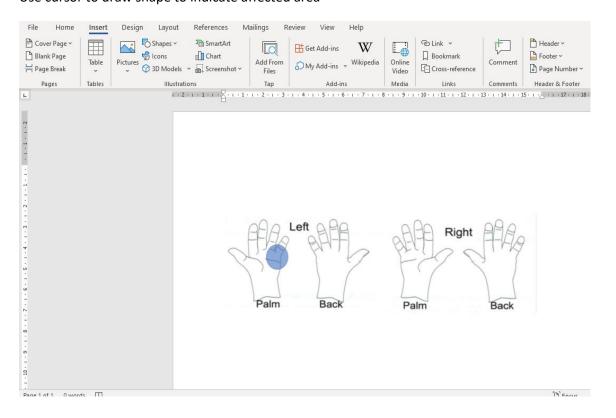
1.

Select INSERT > Shapes > Oval



2.

Use cursor to draw shape to indicate affected area



APPENDIX H – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Step 1: Scoping and Identifying the Aims				
Service Line / Department	ent Occupational Health - corporate			
Title of Change:	Occupational Skin Disease Clinical Standard Operating Procedure			
What are you completing this EIA for? (Please select):	Service Change Click or tap here to enter text.			
What are the main aims / objectives of the changes	Updates in line with legislation, good practice guidance and Solent health surveillance policy v.3			

Step 2: Assessing the Impact

Please use the drop-down feature to detail any positive or negative impacts of this document /policy on patients in the drop-down box below. If there is no impact, please select "not applicable":

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact(s)	Negative Impact(s)	Not applicable	Action to address negative impact: (e.g. adjustment to the policy)
Sex	х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Gender reassignment	х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Disability	х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Age	х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Sexual Orientation	х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Pregnancy and maternity	Х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Marriage and civil partnership	Х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Religion or belief	х			Click or tap here to enter text.
Race	Х			Click or tap here to enter text.

If you answer yes to any of the following, you MUST complete the evidence column explaining what information you have considered which has led you to reach this decision.

Assessment Questions	Yes / No	Please document evidence / any mitigations		
In consideration of your document		Current legislation, HSE guidance occupational skin		
development, did you consult with		disease, health su	rveillance	
others, for example, external	Yes			
organisations, service users, carers or				
other voluntary sector groups?) Have you taken into consideration any		Yes, as above		
regulations, professional standards?	Yes	res, as above		
regulations, professional standards.				
Step 3: Review, Risk and Action Plans				
How would you rate the overall level of impact /		Low	Medium	High
risk to the organisation if no action taken?		n		
What action needs to be taken to reduce or		nil		
eliminate the negative impact?				
Who will be responsible for monitoring and regular		Occupational Heal	th and Wellbeing S	ervice
review of the document / policy?				

Step 4: Authorisation and sign off

I am satisfied that all available evidence has been accurately assessed for any potential impact on patients and groups with protected characteristics in the scope of this project / change / policy / procedure / practice / activity. Mitigation, where appropriate has been identified and dealt with accordingly.

Equality	Angela Tomlinson	Date:	23 September 2022
Assessor:			