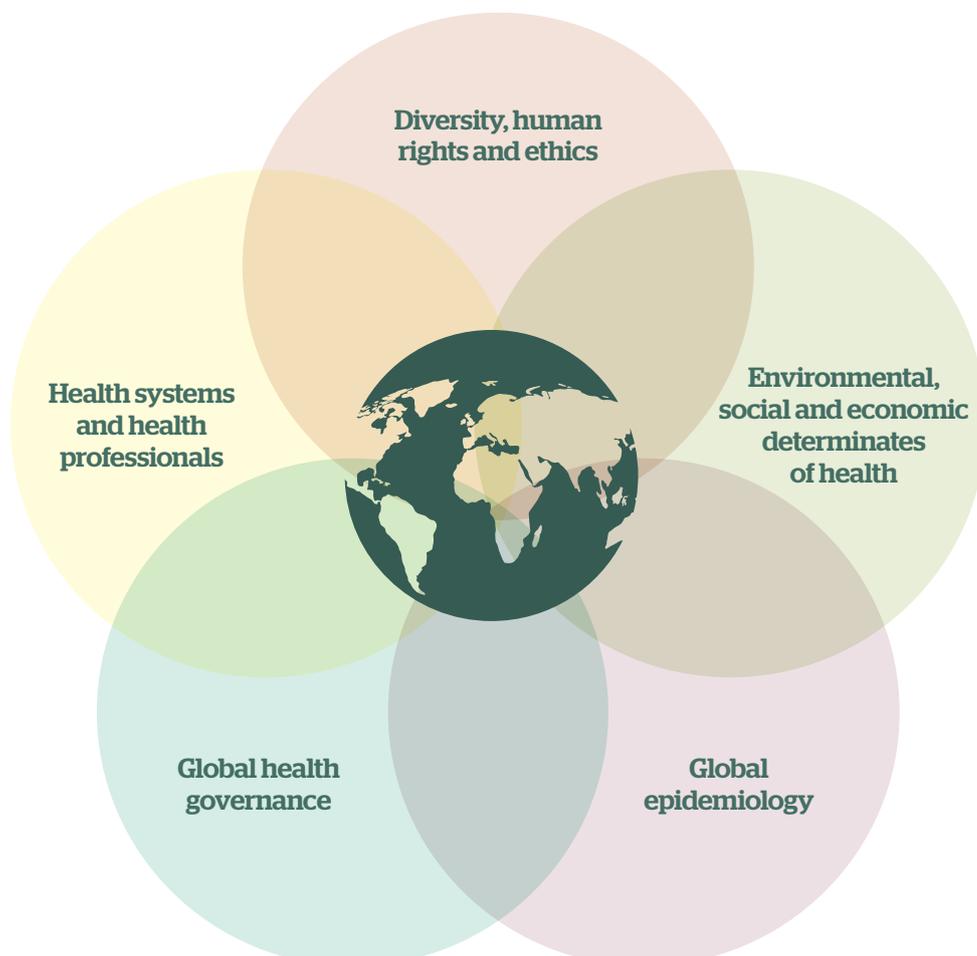

Global Health Capabilities for UK Health Professionals

In our increasingly interdependent world, global health is relevant to all health professionals.

With increasing population movement and shifting disease patterns, health professionals working in the UK are being challenged to deliver effective care to multicultural communities with diverse needs. Health professionals also require an understanding of, and the ability to respond to, the effects of globalisation on health and health systems.

This document primarily provides a framework of core global health capabilities to guide the curricula of postgraduate health professionals in the UK. These capabilities are mainly targeted towards doctors, but may be tailored to the training needs of other health professionals, of undergraduate students and of health professionals and students in other countries.

The five core capabilities, which are of equal value and priority, are interrelated. Each one is relevant to all UK postgraduate health professionals, impacting on both day-to-day practice, clinical leadership and advocacy roles. Further details including key knowledge areas and practice examples for each capability are available in the full report, available on request from globalhealthcapabilities@gmail.com



Global Health Capabilities for UK Health Professionals

Capability 1 Diversity, human rights and ethics

Greater awareness of global health promotes a person-centred approach to healthcare, allowing for a better understanding of individual ideas, concerns and expectations, an awareness of diversity in race, religion and other beliefs, values and life experiences. This knowledge can empower health professionals to adapt the care they provide to ensure that it is safe, protects dignity and is socially appropriate for every individual.

As health professionals, we have a duty to do no harm and respect human rights as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This encompasses the provision of compassionate and respectful care for all patients, promoting equity and ensuring non-discriminatory practice.

Capability 2 Environmental, social and economic determinants of health

Health professionals should understand the global nature of the environmental, social and economic determinants of health including air and water quality, climate, religion, gender, history and politics. They can employ this knowledge to develop more economically, socially and environmentally sustainable health services and to advocate for strategies that tackle health inequalities and improve health outcomes.

An understanding of the influences of environmental, social and economic forces and the interplay between them will enable health professionals to recognise the range of factors contributing to disease and health seeking behaviour. It can promote holistic and sustainable care tailored to the individual needs of the patient and the design of policies and health services that promote health.

Capability 3 Global epidemiology

The burden of disease, communicable and non-communicable, mental and physical, varies between and within countries. An awareness of patterns of health and disease in different geographical regions supports health professionals' ability to diagnose and treat disease and foster health-promoting strategies.

An understanding of the variation in exposure and vulnerability to disease is core to the delivery of optimal patient and population care and to the ability to advocate for strategies that reduce health inequalities.

Capability 4 Global health governance

National and international policies and guidelines affect social determinants of health, research and the development of health technologies, medicines and services, and impact on local practice.

Health professionals who understand international policies, institutions and mechanisms will be better equipped to apply global policies and guidelines at a local level, contribute to and interpret research, improve service delivery and promote population and individual health.

Capability 5 Health Systems and health professionals

Health professionals should understand how their own health system is structured, governed and financed. Comparing their own health system to other health systems across the globe can aid understanding of structural issues and how this impacts on health outcomes. It is important to be aware of how globalisation influences the functioning of health systems and health provision.

Knowledge of other health systems may promote innovation and empower health professionals to contribute to the design and development of health systems and services as part of a growing remit within management and leadership. Health migration has a significant impact on health services globally; this is particularly relevant to the UK National Health Service, which has always relied heavily on overseas staff.

These capabilities were developed by the Global Health Curriculum Group, commissioned by the Academy of Royal Colleges' International Forum.

For more information, please read the paper *Time to go global: a consultation on global health competencies for postgraduate doctors* International Health 2016; doi: 10.1093/inthealth/ihw019, and /or email globalhealthcapabilities@gmail.com.



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