

Competency Based Self Assessment Tool for Public Health - Consultant/Specialist



Public Health Services



Competency Based Performance Management Project for Public Health,
OPHA and Partners, 2009



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Before you use this tool

This competency based self assessment tool has been developed for Public Health Consultants/Specialists to help them assess their competency level against the Ontario Public Health Performance Management Competency Profile for their specific role. You will be asked to reflect on specific behaviours that you demonstrate at work. Consulting others is an option that can provide valuable information. Completing this self assessment takes time and it is suggested that you schedule a few short sessions to complete it.

Additional tools to reference:

- 🌐 Competency Based Performance Management for Public Health: A Guidebook for Managers & Employees
- 🌐 Ontario Public Health Performance Management Competencies
- 🌐 Ontario Public Health Performance Management Competency Profiles

Differentiating the Performance Evaluation and the Self Assessment

Employees are asked to complete a Competency Based Self Assessment. This is a self evaluation of behaviours, namely, what behaviours are being demonstrated and at what frequency and under what types of situations. This represents HOW an employee believes his or her tasks were performed. A performance evaluation is a common understanding of the quality and level of employee performance objectives and competencies over the review period – representing both WHAT tasks were performed and HOW. The performance evaluation involves a discussion between the manager and employee.

Expected Level of Performance

The profiled proficiency levels of the competencies and the 'Meets Expectations' rating represent the performance expected of a fully-functional individual who is experienced in his or her role. An individual who is new to his or her role, who is performing at an acceptable level may receive an evaluation that reflects their development towards an expected proficiency level. They may receive a competency rating or an overall rating of 'Progressing' as a reflection of their continued growth and development in the role – this is normal and expected.

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Pre-assessment Information

The following information about the self assessment should be reviewed prior to completing the attached questionnaire.

Use of Results

Your self assessment is intended for use as a learning and development tool during the performance management process. You and your manager will use the results of your self assessment during the performance evaluation meeting to identify competency development areas and to assist in planning learning and development within your current job.

Where the Assessment Items Come From

The behavioural statements in the assessment are taken directly from the Ontario Public Health Performance Management Competencies and they relate to the proficiency levels of each competency in your profile. Where two levels of proficiency have been identified for a competency, select the level that you and your manager feel is most appropriate for your job and edit the document to reflect the agreed upon proficiency level. You and your manager may also wish to include additional competencies that are specific to your organization or discipline if they have already been defined and are considered part of your performance requirements.

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Completing the Questionnaire

Please read each statement and rate yourself according to your abilities using the scale provided below. You should strive to be completely honest in your self assessment. Only accurate information will help you determine your strengths and areas for development.

After rating yourself, provide an example of how you demonstrate competence within this area. This example will support your rating and will be transcribed in Section B – Competency Review, of the Performance Management Planning and Evaluation Tool.

Legend Indicator	Description
R – Rarely	I rarely demonstrates the behaviour/knowledge in own work.
PT – Part of the time	I apply this behaviour/knowledge part of the time, or in situations that are of low complexity or challenge.
AT – All the time	I use this behaviour/knowledge all the time in a full range of typical challenges.
CS – challenging situations	I apply this behaviour/knowledge successfully in unusual or challenging situations where there are no clear precedents and with no guidance.
N/A – Not applicable	Use the N/A rating when there is insufficient information to answer the question or when the question does not apply to the job of the individual being assessed.

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Questionnaire

NOTE: Mark the proficiency levels for each competency that do not correlate to the profile of your role with N/A.

Competencies <i>Reflect the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Public Health Sciences and Professional or Technical Knowledge This category includes key knowledge and critical thinking skills related to the public health sciences and technical knowledge: behavioural and social sciences, biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental public health, demography, workplace health, and the prevention of chronic diseases, infectious diseases, psychosocial problems and injuries. Competency in this category requires the ability to apply knowledge in practice.					
Public Health Sciences - Level 3					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively pursues learning opportunities beyond current job role and/or area of expertise that add value in current position 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports others in their learning and development by providing feedback, coaching and identifying learning goals and opportunities 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates opportunities to share best knowledge, tools, expertise and experience within the organization 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applies knowledge of public health sciences and other technical knowledge to practice as a source of inspiration and insight into new options and solutions 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thinks several steps ahead in deciding on best course of action, anticipating likely outcomes 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assesses knowledge gaps within the following concepts: the health status of populations, inequities in health, the determinants of health, strategies for health promotion, disease and injury prevention, health protection, and non-public health topics as well as the factors that influence the delivery, use of health services and other technical/professional knowledge 					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Assessment and Analysis This category describes the core competencies needed to collect, assess, analyze and apply information (including data, facts, concepts and theories). This competency requires that a person make evidence-based decisions, prepare budgets and reports, conduct investigations and make recommendations for policy and program development.					
Assessment and Analysis - Level 3					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies novel and creative ways of obtaining information while ensuring reliability and integrity of information collected 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies gaps in information and makes assumptions in order to continue the analysis and/or take action 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and evaluates alternative causes or ways of interpreting complex or ambiguous information/situations 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assesses the impact of findings from an ethical, political, scientific, socio-cultural and economic perspective on communities 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies appropriate course of action and makes recommendations based on in-depth analysis and understanding of information including the underlying issues 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes decisions in line with knowledge of the budget process 					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Assessment and Analysis This category describes the core competencies needed to collect, assess, analyze and apply information (including data, facts, concepts and theories). This competency requires that a person make evidence-based decisions, prepare budgets and reports, conduct investigations and make recommendations for policy and program development.					
Assessment and Analysis - Level 4					
• Integrates information from diverse sources, often involving large amounts of complex information					
• Considers a multiplicity of interrelated factors for which there is incomplete and/or contradictory information					
• Makes complex inferences using general experience, knowledge and contextual information					
• Develops conceptual frameworks that guide analysis by describing patterns of complex relationships among elements and events in the operating environment and within the community					
• Analyzes information to identify emerging issues and trends and incorporates relevant findings into strategic decisions and recommendations for policy and program development					
• Develops strategic plans which demonstrate a high level of understanding of system pressures and funding cycles					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Policy and Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation This category describes the core competencies needed to effectively choose options, and to plan, implement and evaluate policies and/or programs in public health and other technical areas . This includes the management of incidents such as outbreaks and emergencies.					
Policy and Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation - Level 2					
• Applies knowledge and evidence in related field to assist with program design and development					
• Follows the action steps and priorities in the program implementation plan					
• Carries out program evaluation using established objectives and standards					
• Suggests amendments to improve the effectiveness of programs and policies					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Policy and Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation This category describes the core competencies needed to effectively choose options, and to plan, implement and evaluate policies and/or programs in public health and other technical areas . This includes the management of incidents such as outbreaks and emergencies.					
Policy and Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation - Level 3					
• Plans and designs programs and develops policies to address specific public health and other issues					
• Develops implementation plans taking into account relevant evidence, legislation, risk management frameworks, regulations and policies					
• Secures and allocates program resources and ensures coordination of resources during program implementation					
• Establishes procedures and standards for evaluating the effectiveness of programs and policies					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Partnerships, Collaboration and Advocacy This category captures the competencies required to influence and work with others to improve the health and well-being of the public through the pursuit of a common goal. Partnership and collaboration optimizes performance through shared resources and responsibilities. Advocacy— speaking, writing or acting in favour of a particular cause, policy or group of people—often aims to reduce inequities in health status or access to health services.					
Partnerships, Collaboration and Advocacy - Level 4					
• Initiates and maintains strategic partnerships that support and enhance the long-term direction of public health and other domains					
• Ensures that suitable policies, practices and other supports are in place to foster networking and collaboration					
• Monitors partnerships to ensure continued effectiveness, identifying when changes to the nature of the partnership are needed					
• Uses understanding of competing stakeholder interests to manoeuvre successfully to a win/win outcome e.g. through negotiating agreements, using direct chains of influence etc.					
• Identifies approaches and opportunities to advance negotiations that lead to mutually beneficial agreements					
• Facilitates the engagement and mobilization of public services and other stakeholders in shared advocacy efforts					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Diversity and Inclusiveness This category identifies the socio-cultural competencies required to interact effectively with diverse individuals, groups and communities. It is the personification of attitudes and practices that result in inclusive behaviours, practices, programs and policies.					
Diversity and Inclusiveness - Level 3					
• Conducts comprehensive assessments of client cultural norms and behaviours					
• Integrates culturally competent practices into activities, services and programs of the organization					
• Validates applicability of new techniques, research and knowledge for use with diverse client groups					
• Reviews current and emergent demographic trends to determine service / program needs					
• Communicates the importance of delivering services / programs that meet the unique needs of diverse groups					
• Ensures program / service environment is reflective of the diversity of the communities served					
• Implements effective change management efforts to foster diversity					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Communication involves an interchange of ideas, opinions and information. This category addresses numerous dimensions of communication including internal and external exchanges; written, verbal, non-verbal and listening skills; computer literacy; providing appropriate information to different audiences; working with the media and social marketing techniques.					
Communication - Level 3					
• Fosters open communication with others, choosing the communication method, messages and timing in a strategic manner					
• Conveys information with expression, insight, and persuasion when needed; is efficient in the transfer of knowledge					
• Interprets and relays technical both oral and written information to non-professional and community audiences without “talking down” to them					
• Writes reports that address sensitive issues being cognizant of the potential impact of the information being communicated					
• Writes creative marketing or educational material designed to influence people’s health behaviour or other relevant areas					
• Builds trust and credibility with key community figures and groups					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Communication involves an interchange of ideas, opinions and information. This category addresses numerous dimensions of communication including internal and external exchanges; written, verbal, non-verbal and listening skills; computer literacy; providing appropriate information to different audiences; working with the media and social marketing techniques.					
Communication - Level 4					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scans the environment for key information and messages to inform the development of communication strategies to achieve specific objectives 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses varied communication vehicles and opportunities to promote dialogue and develop shared understanding and consensus 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates complex issues clearly and credibly with widely varied audiences 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adeptly addresses difficult on-the-spot questions (e.g., from government, the community, or the media) 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produces written communications documents that address complex/strategic organizational issues, clearly and articulately presenting a position while demonstrating an understanding of the needs and sensitivities of varied audiences 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scans the environment for leading edge technology to assess if relevant and the utility of its use 					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses appropriate communication channels/technology for relating with key individuals , public health partners and stakeholder groups 					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Leadership This category focuses on leadership competencies that build capacity, improve performance and enhance the quality of the working environment. They also enable organizations and communities to create, communicate and apply shared visions, missions and values.					
Leadership - Level 3					
• Recognizes and rewards or redirects the performance of others to support organizational and professional public health and other applicable standards					
• Challenges processes or practices that present inappropriate barriers to organizational success					
• Sets project/program goals that support the mission and priorities of the public health organization					
• Leads by example, modelling the desired behaviours, and acting with professionalism and integrity					
• Facilitates cooperation and motivation within and across teams through various means including formal team-building activities					
• Builds support for and commitment to new initiatives, including non-traditional or innovative activities					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					

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Competencies <i>Reflect on the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the practice of public health.</i>	R	PT	AT	CS	N/A
Ethics and Professionalism Is the ability to demonstrate and support organizational ethics and values and adhere to professional codes of conduct to manage self, others, information and resources.					
Ethics and Professionalism - Level 3					
• Promotes the values and beliefs of public health ethical frameworks and/or regulatory college					
• Provides guidance to others to ensure they understand the implications of unethical behaviour and how to practice in an ethical manner					
• Deals directly and constructively with lapses of integrity (e.g. intervenes to remind others of the need to respect the dignity of others)					
• Establishes and maintains respectful and collaborative professional and ethically sound relationships with all clients, colleagues, partner organizations, sponsors and employees under supervision					
• Articulates and practices a model of ethical decision-making to inform practice and provide reasonable alternatives and solutions to ethical dilemmas/issues					
• Maintains and continuously improves competence by participating in professional development and regulatory college maintenance of competence requirements					
• Seeks learning opportunities in rapidly evolving and emerging subject areas within and peripheral to one's professional practice					
Provide examples of how you demonstrated this competency					