

Level I Course Guidelines v.9 **FAO: All providers**

The ESC endeavour to maintain high standards hand therapy education and as such there is ongoing development of guidelines for course providers. This most recent version (v.9) of the guidelines incorporates four developments, identified and discussed in brief below.

1. Historical Courses – Evidence based Updates

Evidence based practice is core to every speciality within healthcare - the field of hand therapy has seen important developments over the last 5 years. All BAHT validated courses should be evidence-based, presenting the latest concepts to delegates to inform their clinical practice. For courses which have either run in the past and are ongoing (i.e. run yearly), course providers should provide evidence of updates and inclusion of the latest research to inform teaching. These updates are required at a minimum every 5 years - evidence needs to be provided to the ESC before a course can be re-validated. A table has been included in Appendix L of the guidelines to document these updates and developments. There are some factual based areas of teaching which may not change e.g. anatomy and physiology, however, there are other areas where there has been considerable development over the last few years e.g. tendon rehabilitation regimes.

2. BAHT Rep Feedback

Attendance of a BAHT rep on all level I courses is mandatory, for new courses and existing courses. Feedback reports are completed post course and provided to the ESC. There has previously been a requirement for these reports to be completed and returned to the BAHT secretary within 2 weeks of the course and returned via email to bahthandtherapy@gmail.com. This requirement will remain, though there is now a requirement to copy in the level I co-ordinator too (baht.level1@gmail.com). In addition to this, there will also be a requirement placed on the rep attending the course to forward the report to the course provider. For repeat courses, the previous feedback report will be forwarded by the level I co-ordinator to the appointed BAHT rep.

3. Candidate Eligibility Extension

At present, the guidelines state that the BAHT Level I course is designed for 'qualified OTs and PTs with an interest in hand therapy, but minimal or no prior clinical experience within the area. Therapy support workers and other registered health professionals (e.g. nurses) are also eligible to attend a Level I course where they are able to provide supporting evidence (such as recommendation from their manager) that it is relevant to their job role to do so, and at individual course providers' discretion'. Student PTs and OTs in their final year of study may also attend level I courses.

Until now, sports therapists have not been eligible to attend. Following consideration by the ESC, sports therapists may be eligible to attend, provided their main body of clinical work sits within upper limb rehabilitation. Supporting evidence of this must be provided at the time of the application, and the appropriateness of the application/course place will be at the individual course provider's discretion.

4. Application form Submission Change

The final guideline change is an amendment made to the application process. Until now, all applications have been made via the BAHT secretary and disseminated from there. Applications should now be directly emailed to the BAHT level I course co-ordinator (Baht.level1@gmail.com). Please ensure applications are submitted using the latest version of the application form which can be found on the BAHT website.