



MND: A course for students Practice placement educator/supervisor notes

This course is designed to provide an introduction, overview and self-directed learning to any student HSCP at any level in their studies. The course is hosted on the Open University website and will require registration with the OU. It will take 2 –3 hours in total, this can be done over several sessions. Students will get a digital badge on successful completion.

The course includes self-directed tasks and suggests students share their learning with placement educators. We have included below an overview of the modules and tasks included.

For further information, technical issues and any other enquiries, please contact education@mndassociation.org

Understanding MND:

- **What is MND?** Brief overview of the condition
- **Diagnosis of MND** : importance of timely diagnosis; diagnostic process, personal stories of impact of diagnosis, Red flags tool for GPs

Task: Reflection activity: What is it like to have MND?

This activity asks students to focus on five common activities — swallowing, breathing, moving, thinking and communicating — to gain insight into how MND can affect daily life. Students are guided to write notes and share with supervisor: eg reflecting during a mealtime about how MND affects swallow and thus changes eating and drinking for a person living with and/or affected by MND.

Task: What is motor neurone disease (MND) quiz?

There are 5 questions covering the content just completed, they are multiple choice; true/false or one free text (experience of diagnosis and how professionals can respond sensitively).

Cornerstones of care: Coordination and MDT approach

- **Multidisciplinary teams for MND:** explanation of an MDT and the MDT approach

- **A person with MND's perspective:** on how their MDT work with her to plan and provide care
- **A professional's perspective:** how the MDT works in practice
- **Resources from the MND Association:** MDT working guide, MDT infographic and meet the MDT videos

Task 3: MDT approach

Question 1: A person with MND is having increasing difficulty swallowing food and liquids. Which professional is most likely to take the lead in supporting this?

- Occupational therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Speech and language therapist
- Psychologist

Question 2: Match each issue to the professional most likely to help:

Dietitian	Difficulty gripping utensils
Speech and Language Therapist	Difficulty communicating verbally
Psychologist or counsellor	Adapting the home for accessibility
Respiratory physiotherapist or Respiratory Specialist Nurse	Breathlessness at rest
Occupational Therapist	Low mood and anxiety
	Weight loss and poor appetite
	Slurred speech

Question 3: Which of the following is not a benefit of effective coordination in MND care?

- A single point of contact for the person with MND
- Delays in equipment provision
- Clearer communication between professionals
- Reduced duplication of services

Question 4: Think about your own or a future professional role. How might you contribute to an MDT caring for someone with MND? Consider what unique skills or insights you could bring, and how you would communicate and collaborate with others to ensure holistic, person-centered care.

Developing your skills

- NICE guideline on MND: NICE guideline animation, NICE recommendations
- Professional information finder tool
- Competencies for MND professionals

Task: Developing your skills

Question 1: What is the main purpose of the NICE guideline on MND?

- a. To provide information on how to apply for funding for research.
- b. To set out best practice for assessment and management of MND.
- c. To find the most appropriate equipment available for people with MND.
- d. To provide personal stories from people affected by MND.

Question 2: What does the Professional Information Finder help health and social care professionals do?

- a. Apply for specialist MND training courses.
- b. Order printed resources from the MND Association.
- c. Find contact local multidisciplinary teams.
- d. Quickly find information and resources relevant to their profession or topic.

Question 3: Reflect on your future role. How could you use one of the MND Association's tools or frameworks to enhance your practice?

Question 4: Why do you think competency frameworks are valuable for multidisciplinary teams working with MND?

Self-directed learning

Choice of 1 of 3 case studies, each show referral and assessment and videos of actual MDT discussions on the cases.

Task: Case study questions

- What do you believe are the 2/3 main issues?
- What needs to happen next?
- Who to involve?
- How would you organise those next steps?
- What is the key information you would pass on to other MDT members and how?

Compare your answers to those of 2 other MDTs by watching the videos.

Thinking about one of the case studies, have a go at completing [Understanding my Needs](#) form based on their information.

Please use the space below to record any reflections on how this form could be useful. (free text box)

Thinking about one of the case studies, please suggest two resources that may be useful for **the person living with MND and their family**.

Thinking about one of the case studies, please suggest two resources that may be useful for **the health and social care professionals involved who may not be familiar with MND**.

End of course