Global Research, Education and Innovation in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit



CECOPS Standards & Certification Scheme for AT Services Brian Donnelly MSc, CECOPS, UK

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CECOPS, a not-for-profit standards and certification body, has developed outcome-based international standards, tools and training applicable to all AT services. The person-centred standards act as a quality framework for procurement and provision of services, and are system and sector-wide.

Principles can be applied globally, to support quality developments.

The CECOPS Model

A registration, accreditation and approved training scheme.



Quality framework addresses structures and processes across planning, commissioning, service provision and clinical and technical areas, and ensures organisational readiness prior to engagement with AT.



Outcome-based standards form end-to-end Codes of Practice which link commissioners with AT users, simplifying procurement and provision of services.



The Codes cover all types of AT services including disability equipment, wheelchair services, digital health, telehealth and telecare, for example.



Organisations can be externally assessed against the relevant Code Standards to gain accreditation.



Organisations can self assess and drive improvements using software tool, which also encourages sharing good practice and accelerates readiness.



Approved training courses available for planning, commissioning and providing services including clinical and technical teams.

The impact for AT users and other stakeholders:

AT Users

- ✓ Become more involved in service planning and design.
- ✓ Meet holistic and person-centred needs effectively.
- ✓ Successful implementation of services ensures AT users benefit from an efficient, good quality and safe service.

Wider Stakeholders

- ✓ Creates capacity within the system and reduces cost.
- ✓ Streamlines process for procuring services.
- ✓ Provides a benchmark for evaluating quality and performance.
- ✓ Encourages innovation and provides sustainable model for AT.
- ✓ Assessment of organisational readiness encourages a right-first-time approach.

GATE Strategic Themes



People: To understand needs, the CECOPS standards champion the involvement of users in the planning, design and provision of services, including assessment. The standards address clinical and technical assessments including wider aspects e.g. environment, anticipatory needs and fast-tracking provision.

Products: The processes set out within CECOPS' Codes of Practice ensure the right products are selected, which best meet the needs of people using them. Following the processes also ensures the products selected are of good quality and the most effective, whilst factoring in value for money.

Provision: CECOPS standards are outcome-focussed and cover planning, assessments and delivery of services within an integrated quality framework. The standards also encourage the upskilling of staff and integration of services, so that holistic needs are met in a personcentred and cost effective way.

Personnel: The CECOPS standards and training address core competencies required at all levels and across different disciplines. Current practice around reactive services are challenged, with a move to a prevention focus and looking at anticipatory needs.

Policy: The CECOPS Codes support policy development in the early planning stages prior to engaging with AT, and ensure service alignment with local and national policy, especially with regards to understanding need and how strategically to best meet the need.

Implications for other aspects of the Global Research Agenda

Working with the CECOPS Model and Codes of Practice will:

- ✓ Support WHO GATE vision: Have a world where everyone in need has high-quality, affordable assistive products to lead a healthy, productive and dignified life.
- ✓ Help shape global policy and strategies to address population health needs.
- ✓ Help address needs of growing aging population and keeping people independent.
- ✓ Empower people using services and support their rights.
- ✓ Introduces a more holistic, preventative and integrated model where assessments and provision of AT is person-centred and cost effective.



Strategies to share and build global capacity:

CECOPS would like to see the global community benefit from our Model and therefore welcomes interest from international colleagues. We are able to:

- Share information on the model
- Pilot work in other countries.
- Meet with interested parties.

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