Type 1 Diabetes: Less guesswork. More freedom. Better health.

DAFNE educator specification

Please bear in mind that if you do not exactly meet the specification, this does not necessarily mean you are not suitable, although you may find the Remote DAFNE Educator Programme (RDEP) more demanding. Effective communication is a key DAFNE educator skill. Educators must be able to anticipate and address their own barriers to communication, and those of group participants, to communicate complex ideas with clarity.

Proposed DAFNE educators must be aware of the necessary time commitments to complete the RDEP and quality assurance (QA) requirements of DAFNE.

The following specification is seen as including the qualities for a DAFNE educator, in order to maintain consistently high quality:

Knowledge and experience

Essential	Desirable
Understanding of aetiology, diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes.	To have a relevant teaching qualification in adult learning or equivalent experience.
Be in a role that can include DAFNE course delivery in your job plan.	To have experience of teaching groups.
To have worked as part of a specialist type 1 diabetes team for a minimum of 1 year.	
To have ongoing responsibility for management and support of type 1 patients.	

Qualities/competences

Essential	Desirable
A willingness to take on skills normally outside the traditional role of a dietitian or a nurse. For example, dietitians develop their insulin dose adjustment skills and diabetes specialist nurses develop their carbohydrate counting skills.	Familiar with methods of peer assessment.
Empathy with DAFNE philosophy.	Familiar with use of personal development plans.
Desire to work in a patient centred way to encourage and support behaviour change.	
Ability to develop and maintain communication with people on complex matters, issues and ideas and / or in complex situations.	

RDEP training includes both online and peer-led assessment on the following behaviours and activities:

- Delivery of the essential learning outcomes from the Remote DAFNE educator manual
- Planning the session:
    - Effective time management.
    - Using a range of teaching strategies for adult learning.
    - Identification and use of resources.
- Managing the session:
    - Being able to manage a group.
    - Involve participants.
    - Experiential learning.
- Adult education and interpersonal skills:
    - Good communication skills.
    - Encouraging participant problem solving.
    - Encouraging group interaction and involvement.
    - Non-threatening and non-judgemental.