



List of skills & competencies required of musicians working in healthcare settings

This list is the result of a process of reflection carried out during the Leonardo da Vinci Partnerships Pilot project, supported by the European Commission (Lifelong Learning Programme): “European Music in Healthcare Settings Training Program”. The list is not exhaustive and merely reflects the findings of the project participants. It is inevitable that the list will evolve. Its aim is to provide the basis for an ongoing exchange on the skills and competencies required of musicians working in healthcare settings.

Musical Skills:

- High quality performing/musical ability
- Repertoire (diverse/active/broad/appetite for new repertoire)
- Improvisation/variation
 - Stripping back musical material to its basic format and considering how to play with rhythm, harmony and melody
- Use of voice
- Adaptability
- Authenticity and Integrity
- Creativity
- Confidence
- Ability to work solo or in a group
- Intuitive
 - Understanding when to explore a patient’s musical memory and when to improvise new material
- Suitable instrument (portable and appropriate to a healthcare environment)
- Balancing one’s own musical personality with the needs of the person for whom and with whom one plays

Professional Skills:

- Effective communication skills:
 - ability to build relationships with staff and patients (partnership with staff)
 - ability to focus on the patient and prioritise them over musical or personal needs
- Organisational and procedural flexibility
 - ability to respond to constantly changing climate within a healthcare context
 - understanding the contexts in which music is welcome or unwelcome
 - Preparation & planning
- Respect
 - For patients/staff/environment/family
 - For limitations and abilities of patients
- Reflection (experiences/musical skills)

- Exploring the theoretical and practical competencies necessary to carry out quality musical actions
- Environmental / spatial awareness
 - Understanding and imagining the place of music and of the musician in healthcare settings
 - Interaction with patients and family members
- Ethical awareness
 - Treat all patients/clients with equality, whatever their age, culture, origin, religion etc.
 - Methods and approaches of musical actions in healthcare settings (children, teenagers, older people, newborn babies)
 - Understanding professional boundaries and respecting confidentiality of patients
- Adaptability
 - Adapting to patient reactions/behaviours
 - Considering the intention of each interaction
- Cultural sensitivity /acceptance
- Observation
 - Respecting patient's personal space while finding a 'touching place' to connect with patients through music
 - Understanding body language

Personal Skills:

- Patience
- Discretion
- Calm
- Observant
- Spatial awareness
 - Specific to healthcare environments
 - Considering the physical boundaries of the musical instrument
 - Personal awareness
- Maturity
- Resilience
- Intuitive
- Humility
- Empathy
 - Working with the person and not the illness
- Sensitivity
- Confidence
- Ability and willingness to connect with people
- Considerate (of patients/medical staff/family members etc)
- Genuine
- Generous
- Emotional stability
- Self- Awareness
- Curiosity and desire to always learn more

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