

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 24th January 2008

For Immediate Use

Free Online Learning Portal for the NHS

In a move sure to shake-up learning in the health service, Course-Source has announced the launch of a new, dedicated and mostly free, e-learning portal that will go live on March 25th.

Course-Source has provided the software, hardware and IT services behind the NHS ECDL programme since the outset 5 years ago, and the new 'Health e-Learning' portal at www.HealthELearning.net will work in a very similar way but will be able to manage any e-learning, not just ECDL.

The new portal will incorporate valuable additional features and huge range of options for NHS organisations. Trusts are able to take part in the pilot now, and are being consulted as to what they want in the system. For example, they can choose to each have their own version of the portal fully customised to their needs.

Managing director, Ken Wood, explains:

"The idea is to build a community of NHS training professionals that share ideas and resources. Our philosophy is to work from the bottom up, not the top down, enabling each Trust to do their own thing, but take advantage of economies of scale".

For Trusts that are continuing with ECDL, they will be able to import all the historical data from the old portal, and finish the licenses for materials that have been subscribed using the same LoginID's and password that they had before. They will also be able to purchase new licenses for ECDL materials and tests.

Free services at www.HealthELearning.net will include: -

- Hosting, tracking & reporting of any e-learning materials developed in house (and owned by the Trust) or any non-commercial e-learning material that the trust has rights to use¹

- Online forums and communication tools
- Online search and booking tools for classroom-based training
- Ability for Trusts to share (or sell) e-learning they have developed to other organisations within the portal.

The new portal will also offer a unique low-cost 'per enrolment' pricing model for hundreds of off-the-shelf e-learning courses from a growing list of leading UK publishers such as *VideoArts*, *EssentialSkillz*, *Learning4Business*, *Fast Healthcare*, *Skillboosters*, *Advance Learning*, and many more.

NHS trainers wishing to access the HealthELearning.net pilot programme or gain access to the beta version of the portal, should email info@course-source.net or call 020 7689 9700.

Course-Source Website: www.course-source.net.

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Note to Editors: -

For further information, please contact Suzanne Evans - PR Consultant to Course-Source - on 020 8687 0173 or 07973 149104. Email suzanne@suzanne-evans.co.uk

¹ Subject to permission being obtained from the relevant copyright owner. A small upload/integration fee may apply, but the hosting, tracking and management of these courses will be free of charge.