

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage

Unit code: DL52 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide the specialist skills and knowledge required to advise women on managing their fertility in order to achieve a successful pregnancy following miscarriage.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Describe the female reproductive system and explain the female fertility cycle.
2. Use and interpret Fertility Management charts.
3. Plan, deliver and evaluate a Fertility Management session.
4. Evaluate own contribution to the service.

This specialist Unit has been developed by Scottish Care and Information on Miscarriage (SCIM) and is designed to enable the candidate to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to provide effective advice on Fertility management to women who are at risk of miscarriage. It is intended for candidates who are employed, in a paid or voluntary capacity, in providing advice and guidance on fertility management with a view to establishing a successful pregnancy.

Credit points and level: 2 HN Credits at SCQF level 7: (16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

**SCQF credit points are used to allocate credit to qualifications in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF). Each qualification in the Framework is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at an SCQF level. There are 12 SCQF levels, ranging from Access 1 to Doctorates.*

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Due to the specialist nature of this Unit, it is essential that candidates should have achieved agreed Advice and Guidance and Counselling Units and have experience and evidence of supervised hours working within an advice, Guidance or Counselling role with women who have suffered miscarriage.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills in this Unit, particularly Problem Solving, Working with Others and Communication.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes. This must be assessed within the conditions of the workplace.

Assessment: This Unit is assessed by three instruments of assessment, one of which, Outcome 3, should be drawn from practice.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Describe the female reproductive system and explain the female fertility cycle

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Anatomy and physiology of the female reproductive system
- ◆ Menstrual cycle
- ◆ Ovulation
- ◆ Fertilisation
- ◆ Implantation
- ◆ Cervical mucus patterns
- ◆ Effects of hormones on the menstrual cycle – Oestrogen; Progesterone; Follicle Stimulating Hormone; Luteinising Hormone.

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ explain the process of reproduction
- ◆ describe the effects of hormones on the menstrual cycle

Assessment guidelines

Short answer test under controlled conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage

Outcome 2

Use and interpret fertility management charts

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Types of cervical mucus
- ◆ Cervical mucus patterns
- ◆ Signs of fertility throughout the cycle
- ◆ Signs of ovulation

Evidence requirements

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their skills and/or knowledge by showing that they can:

- ◆ record mucus patterns throughout the menstrual cycle
- ◆ record signs of ovulation
- ◆ analyse and interpret fertility management charts

Assessment guidelines

Evidence from this Outcome should be derived from current practice and should take the form of fertility management charts produced from 3 different clients. Candidates should accurately interpret each of the three charts.

Outcome 3

Plan, deliver and evaluate a fertility management session

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Planning tools
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Respecting diversity and choices
- ◆ Methods of evaluating personal effectiveness in a professional role
- ◆ Reflections on own practice
- ◆ Demonstrate sensitivity when working with clients

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage

Evidence requirements

Candidates will gather evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ use planning tools
- ◆ create and manage a learning environment
- ◆ use communication skills
- ◆ respect diversity and choices
- ◆ evaluate their own performance
- ◆ identify knowledge/skills gained

Assessment guidelines

- ◆ Observed by the assessor
- ◆ A completed plan should be produced
- ◆ Reflective account of the learning session

Written evidence logs should detail the structure and practice of three fertility management sessions with three different clients.

Outcome 4

Evaluate own contribution to the service

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Reflect on practice with clients and review your own contribution
- ◆ Identify gaps in knowledge and skills
- ◆ Develop your own skills in order to improve your performance in response to *constructive* advice. This might include:
 - Recognising the importance of workplace policies and procedures
 - Assertiveness
 - Organisational skills
 - Team bonding
 - Consistency and reliability
 - Ability to deal with conflict
 - Negotiation skills
 - Collaboration with colleagues and/or other professionals

Evidence requirements

Written evidence in form of a reflective report on practice.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage

Assessment guidelines

Written evidence showing understanding and good practice which meets the needs of women who are looking to achieve a pregnancy following miscarriage.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DL52 34
Unit title:	Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage
Superclass category:	PP
Date of publication:	August 2004
Version:	01
Source:	SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This specialist Unit is designed to allow candidates to build up a knowledge and understanding of female fertility and to extend their practical experience of working with women who have experienced or are at risk of miscarriage and with other team members. An integrative approach should be taken to generate evidence for this Unit.

Outcome 1

Candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the process of reproduction and a detailed knowledge of the signs of fertility and ovulation. They should be aware of normal variations in the cycle of menstruation and should recognise when referral to health professionals is appropriate.

Outcome 2

Different models of managing fertility and the cycle of observation, planning, recording and reporting should be considered such as recording of Basal Body temperature, saliva testing and urine testing. Candidates should develop competence in interpretation and analysis of fertility charts using real examples.

Outcome 3

Role play should be used to allow candidates to gain confidence in dealing sensitively with clients and candidates should be encouraged to recognise evaluation as a useful tool in improving the quality of service delivery and to encourage reflection on own practice. A person centred approach should underpin all interactions with clients and the importance of anonymity and confidentiality stressed. Actual sessions with clients should be observed or taped, and assessed using an appropriate checklist.

Outcome 4

The contribution of team support could be examined, as should be understanding of the role of the advisor as these are integral to building up competence in the workplace and cannot be seen as skills and competences in isolation from each other. Candidates should be encouraged to build a folio of charts, reflective accounts of meetings with clients, work records etc which reflects this integrative approach.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage

Assessment evidence should be derived from real work environments. The amount of evidence requirements is set out in the Unit elements and should include practical fertility management sessions which demonstrate beginnings, middles and ending the sessions. Charting instruction while working sensitively with the client. Further supporting evidence should be generated from written assessments, direct observations and witness testimonies. Candidates should demonstrate an awareness of the policies and procedures of the workplace. Confidentiality must be maintained at all times.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

A sensitive approach should be used when working with clients following miscarriage and this same approach should be adopted when working with clients on issues relating to their fertility or infertility –charting and other materials used while working/training with clients should be receptive to issues of loss and fertility.

The following web sites, though not exhaustive, should give reasonable access to key literature for this Unit:

- ◆ NHS National Electronic Library for Health [http www.nelnhhs.uk](http://www.nelnhhs.uk).
- ◆ Fertility UK The National Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning Service UK [http www.fertilityuk.org](http://www.fertilityuk.org)
- ◆ Life Fertility Programme [http www.lifefertility.co.uk](http://www.lifefertility.co.uk)
- ◆ NHS National Institute for Clinical Excellence [http www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)
- ◆ American Infertility Association [http www.americaninfertility.org](http://www.americaninfertility.org)
- ◆ March of Dimes (American pregnancy advice charity) [http www.marchofdimes.com](http://www.marchofdimes.com)
- ◆ Centre for Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction [http www.cerhr.niehs.nih.gov](http://www.cerhr.niehs.nih.gov)
- ◆ OMNI Gateway to internet resources in health and medicine [http www.omni.ac.uk](http://www.omni.ac.uk)
- ◆ University of Illinois McKinley Health Centre [http www.mckinley.uiuc.edu](http://www.mckinley.uiuc.edu)
- ◆ McGill Medicine Candidate Projects [http www.sprojects.mmi.mcgill.ca](http://www.sprojects.mmi.mcgill.ca)

Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Additional Support Needs* (BA 2399, SQA, due 2004).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage

This is a specialist Unit designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of the reproductive system; the use and interpretation of Fertility Management charts and to develop skills in providing advice to women on establishing and maintaining a successful pregnancy following miscarriage.

You may undertake this Unit as a stand-alone Unit or as part of the Professional Development Award Certificate in Advising on Fertility Management.

You will require to have experience in the Advice and Guidance and/or counselling fields as assessment for Outcome 3 is drawn from practice.