

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

**Unit code:** F1B9 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to enable the candidate to understand the application of legal, moral and professional concepts to standards of practice in order to explore the relevant of issues governing professional practice.

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

- 1 Explain the ethical principles to the relevant therapy practice.
- 2 Investigate the implications of national and European legislation in relation to the therapy being practised.
- 3 Investigate codes of conduct governing professional practice.
- 4 Evaluate the need for continuing professional development to maintain competent standards of practice.

**Credit points and level:** 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 7: (8 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:** Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the Centre. However it would be beneficial if candidates had some general research skills.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication and Information Technology at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

**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.

**Assessment:** This Unit should be holistically assessed by means of a research project.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

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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**

Explain the ethical principles to the relevant therapy practice

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Morals, ethics and values
- ◆ In society
- ◆ In practice
- ◆ Relevance of

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by undertaking a research project showing that they understand the:

- ◆ morals, ethics and values in society within the principle of: utility, autonomy, universality, equality and diversity
- ◆ morals, ethics and values in practice: respect, honesty, confidentiality, accountability, responsibility and consent
- ◆ relevance of morals, ethics and values

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Details of the holistic assessment are given at Outcome 4.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

### **Outcome 2**

Investigate the implications of national and European legislation in relation to the therapy being practised

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Rationale for legislation
- ◆ Regulatory legislation
- ◆ Areas governing practice

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by undertaking a research project showing that they understand:

- ◆ the rationale for legislation: statutory and voluntary regulation, public accountability, public expectations, protecting public, duty to care, government pressures, acceptable guidelines
- ◆ regulatory legislation: civil law, criminal law, employment legislation, self regulating therapy bodies, retailing law for essential oils
- ◆ the main areas governing practice: standardising policies and procedures, competence to practice, professional conduct, educational issues, professional collaboration

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Details of the holistic assessment are given at Outcome 4.

### **Outcome 3**

Investigate codes of conduct governing professional practice

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Codes of practice
- ◆ Regulatory bodies

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ identify the relevant codes of practice in relation to complementary and conventional medicine
- ◆ identify relevant codes of practice in relation to regulatory bodies and within clinical practice in national and international contexts

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Detail of the holistic assessment are given at Outcome 4.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

### **Outcome 4**

Evaluate the need for continuing professional development to maintain competent standards of practice

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Personal effectiveness in practice
- ◆ Personal limitations and development needs
- ◆ Changes in practice and regulatory environment

#### **Evidence Requirements**

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

- ◆ identify methods of evaluation
- ◆ identify personal limitations and development needs
- ◆ explore strategies for continual professional development

#### **Assessment guidelines**

This Unit should be holistically assessed. Candidates should present a research project demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of Outcomes 1, 2, 3 and 4. The research project should have a minimum of 2,500 words and be referenced.

## Administrative Information

<b>Unit code:</b>	F1B9 34
<b>Unit title:</b>	Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice
<b>Superclass category:</b>	PA
<b>Original date of publication:</b>	September 2006
<b>Version:</b>	01

### History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

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 40 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended to create an awareness of implications of legal and moral issues in the maintenance of professional standards of practice.

**Outcome 1:** addresses the ethical principles governing society and professional practice applicable to the candidate's chosen area of practice and client rights.

This should include:

- ◆ Morals, ethics and values in society within the principle of: utility, autonomy, universality, equality and diversity.
- ◆ Morals, ethics and values in practice: respect, honesty, confidentiality, accountability, responsibility and consent.
- ◆ Relevance of morals, ethics and values.

**Outcome 2:** takes cognisance of the legislation governing all aspects of accountable practice in Complementary Therapies. Candidates should be encouraged to research current and emerging national and European legislation pertinent to their area of practice.

**Outcome 3:** requires the candidate to understand and apply the relevant principles of other professional codes of conduct to his/her own standards for safe and competent practice.

This should include:

- ◆ Rationale for codes
- ◆ Political, social and economical factors
- ◆ National and international contexts
- ◆ United Kingdom Care Consortium (UKCC)
- ◆ British Complementary Medicine Association (BCMA)
- ◆ British Aromatherapy Council (BAC)
- ◆ Reflexology Forum
- ◆ International Code of Medical Ethics
- ◆ Similarities and differences: academic, technical and professional influences
- ◆ Function of codes — political, ethical, disciplinary and competence
- ◆ Relevance of codes: audit — defining setting, achieving and maintaining standards, legal aspects
- ◆ Record keeping, IT data, accountability to profession and client
- ◆ Application of code: possible criteria, advocacy, autonomy, accountability, consent
- ◆ Confidentiality, duty of care and competence

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

### Unit title: Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

**Outcome 4:** covers the candidate's ability to assess and monitor own effectiveness in practice and identify strategies for ensuring continuing competence and lifelong learning.

- ◆ Methods of evaluation: strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis.
- ◆ Critical incident technique, reflective journal, personal limitations and development needs, skills.
- ◆ Inventory, goal setting, action planning, referral systems.
- ◆ Strategies for updating: accessing internet resources, evaluating research and application to.
- ◆ Practice, networking, learning contract.

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Delivery should guarantee sufficient theoretical knowledge to ensure competence and confidence to work within a clinical setting.

The Unit lends itself to holistic assessment and candidates should undertake a research project with evidence being submitted towards the end of the allocated time for the Unit. It is recommended that candidates are encouraged to learn through directed research while being supported by a tutor. Candidates should be advised of the project at the start of the Unit in order to allow them to compile a schedule for completion of project.

#### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

Support in developing an effective search strategy for accessing and evaluating paper based and electronic sources of complex information on current issues and ideas may be valuable. The need to have efficient systems of recording, coding and storing outline information for ease of reference should be emphasised. Candidates should be encouraged to develop skills in computerised record keeping and be made aware of the importance of saving materials and performing back ups.

The production of first drafts of research is a useful way to ensure assessor involvement at all stages of writing and support the development of skills in evaluation and collating of relevant materials. Although communication skills are not formally assessed candidates should be expected to produce and present research to a professional standard, to express essential complex ideas and information accurately and to use a formal structure and recognised format. Use of language, spelling, punctuation and syntax should be accurate and the availability of suitable software packages to support accuracy and professional presentation could further assist the development of skills in the use of technology.

### Open learning

If this Unit is delivered by open learning methods, additional planning resources may be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance.

For further information and advice please refer to *Assessment and Quality for Open and Distance Learning (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030)*.

## **Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)**

**Unit title:** Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

### **Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs**

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. Further advice can be found in the SQA document *Guidance on Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs* ([www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk)).



## **General information for candidates**

### **Unit title:** Complementary Therapies: Professional Issues in Practice

This Unit is designed to enable you to understand the application of legal, moral and professional concepts to standards of practice in order to explore the relevance of issues governing professional practice.

On completion of this Unit you should be able to:

- ◆ Explain the ethical principles to the relevant therapy practise.
- ◆ Investigate the implications of national and European legislation in relation to the therapy being practised.
- ◆ Investigate codes of conduct governing professional practice.
- ◆ Evaluate the need for continuing professional development to maintain competent standards of practice.

The Outcomes in the Unit require you to carry out research, supported by your tutor, to gain an understanding of the Professional Issues in Practice.

This Unit will be assessed holistically by means of a research project.