



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker Practice

Unit code: F2GS 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to provide an introduction to physiotherapy and to the scope of practice of physiotherapy in healthcare settings. The Unit provides an overview of the role, scope and practice of the physiotherapy support worker in these settings.

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

- 1 Explain the scope, role and responsibilities of the physiotherapy support worker and physiotherapist within the context of physiotherapy practice.
- 2 Explain the professional, legal, and ethical framework for physiotherapy and physiotherapy support worker practice.
- 3 Explain the role of physiotherapists and physiotherapy support workers in team working and interprofessional practice.
- 4 Describe and explain the attributes of the individual physiotherapy support worker needed to achieve optimal outcomes of practice in changing healthcare environments.

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: While access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre, it is recommended that candidates have experience of working as a physiotherapy support worker in a primary or secondary healthcare setting.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the component 'Written Communication' of the Core Skill of Communication at SCQF level 5 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. This Unit is mandatory in the framework for HNC Allied Health Professions: Physiotherapy Support.

Assessment: Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions. Each Outcome may be assessed separately or there could be two instruments of assessment, the first integrating Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 and a second assessing Outcome 4.

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

Explain the scope, role and responsibilities of the physiotherapy support worker and physiotherapist within the context of physiotherapy practice

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Physiotherapy support worker's scope, role and responsibilities
- ◆ Physiotherapist's scope, role and responsibilities
- ◆ Physiotherapy practice
- ◆ Physiotherapy support worker practice
- ◆ Healthcare settings
- ◆ Principles of delegation, accountability and supervision

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the scope and responsibilities of physiotherapy practice and physiotherapy support worker practice including therapeutic approaches, models for practice, and the role of physiotherapists and physiotherapy support workers. This should relate to a range of at least two healthcare settings, teams, environments and client groups in relation to changing demands.
- ◆ explain the responsibilities of the physiotherapist and physiotherapy support worker when working together and individually, in relation to delegation of tasks, accountability for delegation, and in relation to supervision of practice.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions. This Outcome may be assessed separately or it could be integrated with Outcomes 2 and 3. An assessment checklist could be used to indicate that all of the Knowledge and/or Skills have been assessed.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker Practice

Outcome 2

Explain the professional, legal, and ethical framework for physiotherapy and physiotherapy support worker practice

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Professional framework relevant to physiotherapy and physiotherapy support worker practice
- ◆ Legal framework
- ◆ Ethical framework
- ◆ Health and social policies and statutes relevant to physiotherapy and physiotherapy support worker practice in primary secondary and tertiary healthcare contexts
- ◆ The ethical and moral aspects of physiotherapy support worker practice

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the purpose of the professional framework relevant to physiotherapy and individual physiotherapy support worker practice including the purpose of standards of physiotherapy practice and the physiotherapy support workers code of conduct, competence and capability for practice, requirements for continuing personal development and reflective practice and explain how these are applied in practice
- ◆ explain the legal responsibilities of physiotherapists and individual physiotherapy support workers in relation to relevant health and social policies and statutes including the regulatory framework for physiotherapy, manual handling regulations, health and safety legislation, equal opportunities, disability legislation, the human rights act, record keeping, multi-agency health and social care delivery and describe how these are implemented in practice
- ◆ explain the ethical and moral dimensions of physiotherapy support worker practice, including issues of informed consent, confidentiality, relationships with clients and staff, respect for beliefs, dignity, identity and choices of the individual and describe how these are applied in the context of physiotherapy support worker practice

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions. This Outcome may be assessed separately or it could be integrated with Outcomes 1 and 3. An assessment checklist could be used to indicate that all of the Knowledge and/or Skills have been assessed.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker Practice

Outcome 3

Explain the role of physiotherapists and physiotherapy support workers in team working and interprofessional practice

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Principles and dynamics of team working
- ◆ Multi-professional/multi-agency teams
- ◆ Uni-professional physiotherapy
- ◆ Role of physiotherapist and physiotherapy support worker
- ◆ Health and social care contexts
- ◆ Families and carers

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the principles and dynamics of effective multi-professional/multi-agency team working, and describe how different health and social care professionals contribute to such teams in primary and secondary health and social care contexts. At least three of the following healthcare professionals should be covered: nurse, medic, occupational therapist, social worker, main carer.
- ◆ explain the role of the physiotherapist and physiotherapy support worker within effective uni-professional settings and multi-professional/multi-agency teams, including respect for others, fostering of partnerships and good communication, and explain how this can contribute to effective team outcomes for individuals and their families in primary secondary and tertiary healthcare contexts.
- ◆ explain how physiotherapists and physiotherapy support workers and multi-professional/agency teams can work with carers and families to support the client in their rehabilitation in primary and secondary healthcare contexts.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions. This Outcome may be assessed separately or it could be integrated with Outcomes 1 and 2. An assessment checklist could be used to indicate that all of the Knowledge and/or Skills have been assessed.

Outcome 4

Describe and explain the attributes of the individual physiotherapy support worker needed to achieve optimal outcomes of practice in changing healthcare environments

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Management of personal practice
- ◆ Effective communication and collaboration
- ◆ Adaptability

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker Practice

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe and explain how effective time and caseload management, recognition of limitations of scope of personal practice, evaluation of performance, promotion of safe working environments and participation in appraisal and effective continuing personal development, can contribute to optimal outcomes of physiotherapy support worker practice and how these can be achieved in the workplace.
- ◆ describe and explain how effective communication, collaboration and sensitivity to others contributes towards development of partnership and team working, and how this can be developed in the workplace to optimise outcomes of physiotherapy support worker practice. This should cover interaction with physiotherapists, clients and carers and multidisciplinary/multi-agency teams.
- ◆ describe and explain how the physiotherapy support worker applies their evaluation of individual clients and their circumstances, environments and healthcare contexts, in order to contribute to the ongoing assessment and adaptation of physiotherapy support worker practice, to meet the needs of that individual in unpredictable circumstances and in changing healthcare environments.

Assessment Guidelines

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions. An assessment checklist could be used to indicate that all of Knowledge and/or Skills have been assessed.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	F2GS 34
Unit title:	Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker Practice
Superclass category:	PJ
Original date of publication:	August 2007
Version:	01

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

Source: SQA

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker 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 mandatory in the framework for HNC Allied Health Professions: Physiotherapy Support.

It forms the basis of understanding of the role of physiotherapy practice related to the physiotherapy support worker. The Unit will define the nature and scope of physiotherapy practice, exploring practice in diverse healthcare settings, including primary and secondary settings and will include the nature and scope of physiotherapeutic approaches, interdisciplinary professional relationships and the role of physiotherapy support workers in multidisciplinary teams.

It will provide candidates with an understanding of the scope, role and responsibilities of the physiotherapy support worker within the context of physiotherapy practice, current codes of practice and the legal, ethical and moral aspects of practice. The content of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists' (CSP) Curriculum Framework for Physiotherapy, the CSP Code of conduct for assistants, and published guides on supervision, accountability and delegation for support workers may be used to provide guidance for content. The Unit will provide an outline of current professional and legal frameworks for practice. It will also provide candidates with an overview of multi-professional and multi-agency working models and describe physiotherapy service delivery within this context as part of a modern healthcare approach.

In Outcome 4, candidates will gain an understanding of their personal responsibility in working to defined professional standards. It will focus on the attributes required by the individual physiotherapy support worker to achieve optimal outcomes of practice in changing healthcare environments.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit has been designed to be delivered within the HNC Allied Health Professions: Physiotherapy Support framework. It will best be delivered as the first specialist Unit of the HNC Allied Health Professions: Physiotherapy Support. Candidates may have successfully completed the core Units of this award, especially Health Policy, before undertaking this Unit.

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions. Assessment checklists may be used to ensure that all of the Knowledge and/or Skills have been covered. Each Outcome may be assessed separately, however Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 could be integrated via the use of reflective accounts of practice. A reflective account of a critical incident could be used to demonstrate the knowledge and skills required.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker Practice

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

The delivery and assessment of this Unit may contribute towards the component ‘Written Communication’ of the Core Skill of Communication at SCQF level 5. The general skills of the component are ‘read, understand and evaluate written communication’ for its reading element and ‘produce well-structured written communication’ for its writing element. Specific reading skills required by candidates at SCQF level 5 include identifying and summarising significant information, ideas and supporting details in a written communication, and evaluation of the effectiveness of the communication in meeting its purpose; and specific writing skills include presenting all essential ideas, information and supporting detail in a logical and effective order, and use of a structure which takes account of purpose and audience, emphasising the main points.

For assessment of all Outcomes, candidates may be asked to complete extended response questions on various topics. The skills outlined above may be utilised to produce responses covering such issues as the legislative frameworks for physiotherapy support worker practice and ethical considerations.

Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning with tutor support, where open learning materials are available. However it would require tight planning and control by the centre to ensure the authenticity of candidate evidence. Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions.

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).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Principles of Physiotherapy Support Worker Practice

This Unit will provide you with an introduction to fundamental aspects of physiotherapy support worker practice. The Unit will define the role of the physiotherapist and physiotherapy support worker within the contexts of a modern health system and as part of a multi-agency support system for individuals with healthcare needs. The Unit will examine the legislative and provision frameworks for physiotherapy support worker practice and provide an understanding of the scope of practice.

Upon completion of this Unit you will have increased your knowledge and understanding of rehabilitation needs; disability and impairment and be able to describe the potential impact of disability or impairment on the individual, carers and families. You should also be able to accurately define the role of the physiotherapist support worker and those of key multi professional colleagues.

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using open-book, extended response questions. Each Outcome may be assessed separately or there could be two instruments of assessment, the first integrating Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 and a second assessing Outcome 4.

This Unit provides opportunities to develop the component 'Written Communication' of the Core Skill of Communication at SCQF level 5, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.