



Higher National Unit specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases

Unit code: F69D 34

Unit purpose: This Unit is designed to introduce candidates to the aetiology and progression of oral diseases, methods of prevention, and restoration of the dentition.

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

- 1 Describe common oral diseases.
- 2 Outline methods for the prevention and management of oral diseases.
- 3 Describe how to manage and handle materials and instruments used during and finishing restorative procedures for plaque related diseases.

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: There are no prescribed entry requirements for this Unit.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of *Problem Solving* 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 specifically designed for delivery as part of the PDA Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7. It may also be delivered as a stand-alone Unit for Continuing Professional Development.

Assessment: There is one instrument of assessment for this Unit. It could be assessed holistically using a short assessment paper containing multiple-choice, one word answer, and scenario questions.

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 common oral diseases

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Describe the aetiology and progression of dental caries
- ◆ Describe the aetiology and progression of periodontal disease
- ◆ Outline the development of plaque
- ◆ Describe the inflammatory process and effects of the disease process

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ micro-organisms involved in the caries and periodontal disease process
- ◆ the process of demineralisation and remineralisation
- ◆ importance of plaque in the oral disease process
- ◆ signs and symptoms of inflammation
- ◆ contributing factors to the progression of caries and periodontal disease

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit may be assessed holistically using a question paper containing a series of questions which could include multiple-choice, one word answer, and scenario questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases

Outcome 2

Outline methods for the prevention and management of oral diseases

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Effective oral hygiene techniques to prevent oral diseases
- ◆ The effects of diet on oral health
- ◆ Role and methods of administering fluoride — systemic and topical

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ methods/aids that can be used to maintain good oral hygiene
- ◆ role of sugary snacks between meals in the caries process
- ◆ role of topical and systemic fluoride in preventing oral disease and how this can be administered
- ◆ dental health messages
- ◆ erosion/abrasion/attrition, non-carious tooth surface loss
- ◆ role of diet in oral disease
- ◆ clinical intervention, eg scale and polish

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit may be assessed holistically using a question paper containing a series of questions which could include multiple-choice, one word answer, and scenario questions.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases

Outcome 3

Describe how to manage and handle materials/instruments used during and finishing restorative procedures for plaque related diseases

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ The equipment, instruments and materials used throughout restorations
- ◆ The different matrix systems used during restorative procedures
- ◆ The hazards associated with restorative materials and equipment

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ different matrix retainers and bands, eg steel, cellulose
- ◆ different finishing instruments, eg mandrels, discs, polishing burs
- ◆ storage of amalgam and disposal of waste amalgam
- ◆ contents of a mercury spillage kit and how to use it
- ◆ hazards, eg etch, light curing units, amalgam
- ◆ materials, eg linings, dressings, permanent filling materials

Assessment Guidelines

This Unit may be assessed holistically using a question paper containing a series of questions which could include multiple-choice, one word answer, and scenario questions.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	F69D 34
Unit title:	Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases
Superclass category:	PF
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Version:	02 (April 2010)

History of changes:

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Amendment to code to reflect SCQF level change.	12/04/10

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases

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

The Unit may be undertaken and assessed as a stand alone Unit to provide knowledge and understanding of the scientific principles that underpin the management of plaque related diseases.

This Unit has been developed primarily as part of the PDA in Dental Nursing and is a contextualised version of the corresponding Unit in the VRQ developed by City and Guilds and the National Examining Board (NEBDN). As part of the PDA Award, it is designed to provide underpinning knowledge for the SVQ in Dental Nursing at level 3 which can be independently assessed and certificated. As such, the PDA and its component units are designed to meet in part the requirements for registration for dental nurses with the General Dental Council (GDC) where all four units are assessed holistically by a single question paper under exam conditions.

For Outcomes 1–3 the following should be covered:

For Outcome 1, candidates should consider a range of common oral diseases, their characteristics and consequences to the patient of progression. In addition, this Outcome looks at the role of plaque and how it can affect good oral health. Sources and causes of inflammation and general effects of disease should also be covered.

Outcome 2 looks at methods of preventing and managing oral disease. Candidates should be made aware of the importance of regular brushing, flossing etc and the role that regular check ups can play in the overall maintenance of good oral hygiene and health. They should be aware that check ups can identify emerging problems such as the development of erosion of the tooth surface or gingival recession, early detection of more serious conditions. The role of fluoride should be discussed, its advantages and disadvantages, the potential benefits and ways in which it can be administered. This includes systemic and topical application and the various merits of, eg adding to the water supply or by oral supplements (tablet or food/drink-enhanced) should be explored.

Candidates should also be introduced to the causes and effects of non-carious tooth surface loss. Ways of ameliorating and managing erosion and abrasion should be covered.

The role of diet is of crucial importance to good oral health. The potential damaging effects of sugar in both food and drinks should be explored. ‘Good’ and ‘bad’ foods should be identified and the importance of limiting ‘bad’ foods to promote good oral health should be emphasised. This should include discussion of the effects of drinks, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, on the tooth’s surface and overall oral health. In general terms, the potential effect of drinks on teeth and gums is not as readily understood as that of food and it is important that candidates have a clear understanding of this. Consumption of alcohol and ‘alcopops’ can cause significant damage to the structure of the mouth, gums and teeth generally and may lead to more serious diseases such as oral cancers. Finally for this Outcome, candidates should look at the range of clinical interventions that can support the management of good oral health.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases

Outcome 3 focuses on the use of materials and instruments in restorative procedures. Candidates will require to identify and understand the uses of a range of processes, equipment and materials such as retainers, amalgams, their storage and safe disposal, temporary and permanent finishes. Different finishing instruments and their uses should be discussed. Health and safety considerations should also be covered particularly in relation to the safe storage and handling of materials and equipment and disposal of waste material. Candidates should be familiar with the contents of a mercury spillage kit and know how to use this safely.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Delivery could include peer group discussion, use of recorded material (video or other audio-visual media), use of case studies, the internet for research, and practical exercises to identify materials and equipment. It is recommended that the Outcomes for this Unit be assessed holistically in a short assessment paper (30 minutes) containing multiple choice, one word answer, and scenario questions to cover all Outcomes.

Articulation with other qualifications includes:

SVQ level 3 Dental Nursing.

Further information

There are a number of statutory and regulatory bodies which monitor aspects of NHS and/or private dentistry in Scotland. This includes monitoring quality of dental treatment, educational provision for newly-qualified dentists and quality of dental practices. Key regulatory bodies are listed below:

The General Dental Council (GDC) — regulates all dental care professionals (DCPs).

General Dental Council — www.gdc-uk.org

Scottish Executive — NHS practice inspections, compulsory audit. www.scotland.gov.uk

Practitioner Services (PSD), on behalf of the Scottish Dental Practice Board — authorises payments for NHS dentistry, patient examinations to check treatments and monitors quality
www.show.scot.nhs.uk/psd

Scottish Dental Practice Board (SDPB) — sets operational policy on authorising payments to dentists and monitoring NHS dentistry www.show.scot.nhs.uk/psd/sdpb

NHS Education for Scotland — inspects NHS dental practices for vocational training or general professional training. www.nes.scot.nhs.uk

Health and Safety Executive — the HSE's key role is to prevent death, injury and ill health in Great Britain's workplaces through research, information and advice, promoting training, new or revised regulations and codes of practice, inspection, investigation and enforcement www.hse.org.uk

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit. However, there are opportunities to develop aspects of *Communication* and *Problem Solving*.

Open learning

This content of this Unit may be suitable for delivery in a variety of modes including open and distance learning.

Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements

General information for candidates

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Scientific Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases

This Unit has been designed to introduce you to the aetiology and progression of oral diseases, methods of prevention and restoration of the dentition.

It is one of four Units which make up the Professional Development Award in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7. Completion of the PDA and the SVQ in Dental Nursing at level 3 may allow successful candidates to apply for registration as a Dental Care Professional with the General Dental Council.

The Unit covers the following areas:

- ◆ Common oral diseases
- ◆ Methods for the prevention and management of oral diseases
- ◆ How to manage and handle materials and instruments used during and finishing restorative procedures for plaque related diseases

Assessment of this Unit may take the form of a short question paper containing multiple-choice, one word answer, and scenario questions to cover all Outcomes.