Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

Unit code: FN3P 35

Superclass: PF

Publication date: March 2019

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 03

Unit purpose

This specialist Unit is designed to enable the candidate to develop the knowledge, skills and practical application required to take alginate dental impressions for working or study models, working under the prescription of a Dentist. The Unit is suitable for registered Dental Nurses who are supported in a work place setting to take alginate dental impressions under the General Dental Council (GDC) Scope of Practice.

On completion of the candidate will be able to:

1. Define and demonstrate the taking of alginate dental impressions for the purpose of working or study models
2. Explain the relevant legislation, health and safety requirements and professional guidance relating to the taking of alginate dental impressions
3. Demonstrate the emergency support procedures for common medical emergencies which could occur in the dental surgery whilst taking alginate dental impressions

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre; however candidates should be registered with the GDC as a dental care professional, eg Dental Nurse. The candidate must be working in a dental practice and have the opportunity to gain regular experience in the procedure of taking alginate dental impressions.

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8*)

*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.
General information (cont)

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Communication (Oral and Written), Problem Solving and Working with Others in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Context for delivery

The nature of this Unit requires that it be delivered over a period of time — sufficient for candidates to complete the activities and gain sufficient experience to operate competently.

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

Evidence for this Unit should be generated through assessment detailed as follows.

Outcome 1 — This Outcome could be assessed by completion of a minimum of 25 patient cases, working to the prescription of a dentist, and should cover a minimum of 15 adult and 10 child cases. The candidate will need to work in a clinical area that supports the Dental Nurse to frequently take alginate dental impressions. The required performance evidence could be gathered by observation, witness testimony, reflective log and product evidence. The cases should be observed by the dentist. See Appendix 1 which is an exemplar record of alginate dental impressions, detailing the content required to fulfil the evidence requirements of this.

A minimum of two case studies (one adult and one child) should detail the dental nurse’s role in the taking of alginate dental impressions for working/study models which includes patient management and consent.

Outcome 2 — This Outcome could be assessed by an investigation outlining the legislation affecting the taking of alginate dental impressions and a report detailing how the legislative requirements and guidance are followed within the candidate’s own working area.

Outcome 3 — This Outcome could be assessed by simulated practical exercises to allow the candidate to demonstrate competence in managing medical emergencies. The candidate should also be able to explain the limitations of their professional expertise and when they would seek help. This may be assessed by observation and/ or questioning.
Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)
Unit code: FN3P 35

Outcome 1

Knowledge and/or Skills

Define and demonstrate the taking of alginate dental impressions for working or study models.

♦ Role of the dental nurse in the interpretation of content of an appropriate prescription from a Dentist
♦ Infection Control processes for the procedure
♦ Properties/constituents of Dental Biomaterials
♦ Techniques for taking alginate dental impressions including the selection and preparation of appropriate trays
♦ Anatomical landmarks and boundaries for quality working/study models
♦ Appropriate communication skills for dealing with a range of patients
♦ Decontamination processes/procedures and health and safety requirements
♦ Referral/transferral procedures
♦ Recording/record-keeping procedures
♦ Information required by the dental laboratory

Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence of 25 prescribed patient cases (which will be observed by the dentist) to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

♦ describe the content of a dental prescription and how the dental nurse works within their area of competence including communicating with other dental team members
♦ demonstrate the relevant infection control procedures for taking alginate dental impressions as a lone practitioner
♦ evaluate the content, uses and associated hazards and limitations of alginate as a dental biomaterial
♦ describe the anatomical landmarks required for quality working/study models
♦ apply advanced communication skills required to explain the dental procedure to a range of patients
♦ demonstrate the decontamination procedure for alginate dental impressions and related health and safety requirements
♦ demonstrate the process for the transportation of impressions to the dental laboratory
♦ demonstrate recording/record keeping procedures
♦ explain the information required by the dental laboratory
Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

Assessment Guidelines

The candidate will be required to complete a minimum of 25 patient cases, working to a prescription from a dentist which should cover a minimum of 15 adults and 100 child cases.

Assessment Criteria - Range:

- 20 alginate impressions for study models
- Dentate – 5 primary alginate impressions for working models

Each patient case will describe the prescription given, the techniques adopted, the decontamination process for chair side assistance, patient communication, landmarks recorded, decontamination of impression and communication required with the dental laboratory. These cases will be witnessed by a dentist. See support notes for further guidance on content of log.

A minimum of two case studies (one adult and one child) detailing the dental nurse’s role in the taking of alginate dental impressions for working/study models which includes patient management and consent.

Outcome 1 can be assessed with areas of Outcome 2 detailing limits to scope of practice and competence.

 Outcome 2

Explain the relevant legislation, health and safety requirements and professional guidance relating to the taking of alginate dental impressions.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- GDC Standards for Dental Professionals/Scope of Practice
- GDC Continued Professional Development (CPD)
- Role and responsibilities of the dental nurse in relation to the GDC Scope of Practice
- Legal and ethical considerations
- Patient consent
- Recording patient information
- Issues around lone working

Evidence Requirements

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

- clearly define the relevant GDC standards of professional practice
- define the role and responsibilities of the dental nurse within the GDC scope of practice
- investigate the GDC requirements to keep up to date with clinical skills through Continual Professional Development
- describe how to deal with situations outside own area of competence
- identify the factors required for obtaining and recording consent
- outline the risks associated with lone working
- describe the legislation and guidance governing the recording, storing, processing and accessing of patient information
Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome should be assessed by an investigation outlining the legislation affecting the taking of alginate dental impressions and a report detailing how the legislative requirements and guidance are followed within the candidate's own working area.

This report should be based on patient cases from their clinical dental setting and describe the contribution the candidate makes to supporting professional and legal standards.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate the emergency support procedures for common medical emergencies which could occur in the dental surgery whilst taking alginate dental impressions.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- Roles and responsibilities of the dental nurse in responding to medical emergencies
- Basic life support
- Paediatric life support
- Methods of dealing with a choking adult/child
- Management of common dental emergencies
- Organisational procedures for dealing with medical emergencies
- Limitations of experience and when/how to seek assistance
- Procedures for recording incidents

Evidence Requirements

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

- demonstrate basic life support procedures for an adult
- demonstrate basic life support procedures for a child
- demonstrate the management of a choking adult
- demonstrate the management of a choking child
- demonstrate the management of common dental emergencies that could occur whilst taking alginate dental impressions
- explain in detail the limitations of the dental nurse's capabilities in the management of medical emergencies and identify when and how to get further assistance

Assessment Guidelines

This Outcome could be assessed by simulated practical exercises to allow the candidate to demonstrate competence in managing medical emergencies. The candidate should also be able to explain the limitations of their professional expertise and when they would seek help. This may be assessed by observation and/or questioning.
Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

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

Outcome 1

The role of the dental nurse during the taking of alginate dental impressions should include the following:

♦ Infection control — managing the dental environment limiting cross infection
♦ Dental impression materials
♦ Instruments and equipment required during the taking of impressions
♦ Dental anatomy — including the structures of the oral cavity including the landmarks associated with a high quality impression
♦ Patient management of adults and children including anxious patients and the likelihood of unpredictable behaviour
♦ Communication with staff
♦ Dental laboratory’ role — including the information required by the laboratory, the time required for casting impressions etc.
♦ Content of the prescription
♦ Decontamination and related health and safety requirements
♦ Record keeping

Outcome 2

Relevant legislation, health and safety requirements and professional guidance should include:

♦ GDC Standards Guidance for Dental Professionals
♦ GDC Scope of Practice
♦ GDC Continual Professional Development
♦ Consent
♦ Data Protection
♦ Freedom of Information
♦ Caldicott Principles
♦ Health and Safety at Work Act
♦ Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
♦ Protection of Vulnerable Groups
♦ Risks of lone working
♦ The transportation of bio-hazard material
Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

Outcome 3

Role, responsibilities and boundaries of the dental nurse in responding to medical emergencies which include:

♦ Basic Life Support
♦ Paediatric Life Support
♦ Management of choking in adult and child
♦ Management of common medical emergencies in the dental environment such as fainting, asthma attack, angina problems etc
♦ Organisational procedures; record keeping

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Delivery should be student centred and take account of actual workplace experience. Centres should provide significant opportunities for candidates to demonstrate their achievement of the Outcomes. The required performance evidence could be gathered by observation, witness testimony, reflective log and product evidence.

Evidence for this Unit should be generated through assessment detailed as follows:

Outcome 1

This Outcome could be assessed by completion of a minimum of 25 patient cases which should cover a range of both adult and child cases, with a minimum of 15 adult cases and 10 child cases. The candidate will need to work in a clinical area that supports the Dental Nurse to frequently take alginate dental impressions. The required performance evidence could be gathered by observation, witness testimony, reflective log and product evidence. The cases should be observed by the dentist. See Appendix 1 which is an exemplar record of alginate dental impressions, detailing the content required to fulfil the evidence requirements of this.

Assessment Criteria Range:

- 20 alginate impressions for study models
- Dentate – 5 primary alginate impressions for working models

A minimum of two case studies (one adult and one child) should detail the dental nurses’ role in the taking of alginate dental impressions for working/study models which includes patient management and consent.

Two case studies of approximately 1000 words each (or equivalent) for an Adult and Child Patient detailing the dental nurses role in to taking of alginate dental impressions for working/study models including patient management and consent should be completed. Outcome 1 can be assessed with areas of Outcome 2 detailing limits to scope of practice and competence.

Outcome 2
This Outcome could be assessed by an investigation outlining the legislation affecting the taking of alginate dental impressions and a report detailing how the legislative requirements and guidance are followed within the candidate’s own working area. It is likely that this investigation and report will be of approximately 2000 words (or equivalent). This report should be based on the dental nurse carrying out this additional duty in a clinical dental setting and describe the contribution the candidate makes to supporting professional and legal standards. The use of materials for the investigation can be based on organisational procedure. Areas of Outcome 2 may be assessed with evidence from Outcome 1.
Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title:  Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

Outcome 3

This Outcome could be assessed by simulated practical exercises to allow the candidate to demonstrate competence in managing the medical emergencies listed above. The candidate should also be able to explain the limitations of their professional expertise and when they would seek help. This may be assessed by observation and/or questioning.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of *Communication (Oral and Written)*, *Problem Solving* and *Working with Others* in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

*E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003), SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005).*

Open learning

This Unit is not suitable for open learning due to the practical nature of the content.

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](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).
Appendix 1

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

Unit code: FN3P 35

Record of dental impressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dental Nurse:</th>
<th>Date of Patient Treatment</th>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Details of Prescription including previous Medical/Dental History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decontamination of Environment:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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Personal Protective Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Materials/Instruments</th>
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<tbody>
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Consent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Communication</th>
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Technique adopted including patient management

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<th>Technique adopted including patient management</th>
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**Record of dental impressions (cont)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landmarks Recorded on Impression</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality of Impression (judgement on outcome – fitness for purpose)</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decontamination of Impression</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Laboratory Requirements</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please describe any incidents that occurred during the procedure including issues outwith your Scope of Practice</th>
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</table>

**Dental Nurse’s signature**  ____________________________  **Date**  ____________

**To be completed by the Dentist**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dentist's name</th>
<th>GDC Number</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
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**Dentist's signature**  ____________________________  **Date**  ____________
## History of changes to Unit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Description of change</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Removed reference to unit being within Optional units in the Context for delivery section.</td>
<td>05/03/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Assessment criteria updated to remove requirement for 50 patient cases to be completed</td>
<td>12/03/2015</td>
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</table>

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (Dentate)

This specialist Unit is designed to enable you to develop the knowledge, skills and practical application required to take alginate dental impressions for working or study models, working under the prescription of a Dentist. The Unit is suitable for you if you are a registered Dental Nurse who is supported in a work place setting to take alginate dental impressions under the GDC Scope of Practice.

This has three Outcomes and upon completion you will be able to:

♦ Define and demonstrate the taking of alginate dental impressions for working or study models
♦ Explain the relevant legislation, health and safety requirements and professional guidance relating to the taking of alginate dental impressions
♦ Demonstrate the emergency support procedures for common medical emergencies which could occur in the dental surgery whilst taking alginate dental impressions

There will be opportunities throughout this Unit to develop your core skills in Communication, Working with Others and Problem Solving.