



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

Unit code: H4Y2 34

Superclass: PA

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Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit introduces the learner to current legislation of relevance to the Soft Tissue/Sports Therapist and the types and requirement for insurance cover. It also raises the learner's awareness of the role of professional associations in establishing and maintaining standards of education and training within the professions, safeguarding the public and ensuring that appropriate standards of personal and professional conduct are adhered to. It includes elements within the National Occupational Standards for Sports Therapy.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Describe the purpose and implications of current legislation most relevant to Soft Tissue/Sports Therapy practitioners.
- 2 Describe the purpose of different types of insurance cover.
- 3 Describe the role of a professional association in establishing and maintaining education and training of practitioners and promoting codes of personal, professional and ethical practice.

Credit points and level

0.5 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (4 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Access to this Unit will be at the discretion of the centre. However, if the learner has no previous knowledge or experience in working in a therapy-type environment, it is suggested that the Unit is studied concurrently with a practical Unit for example; *Clinical Sports Massage* to provide context.

Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

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.

The Assessment Support Pack (ASP) for this Unit provides assessment and marking guidelines that exemplify the national standard for achievement. It is a valid, reliable and practicable assessment. Centres wishing to develop their own assessments should refer to the ASP to ensure a comparable standard. A list of existing ASPs is available to download from SQA's website (<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/46233.2769.html>).

Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

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. Learners 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 purpose and implications of current legislation most relevant to Soft Tissue/Sports Therapy practitioners.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and associated regulations
- ◆ Preventable and inherent risk
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Common Law duty of care
- ◆ General principles of the Law of Delict
- ◆ Standard of care ('reasonable care')
- ◆ Breaches of statutory and common law duty of care and consequential loss
- ◆ Current legislation on equality and inclusion
- ◆ Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme
- ◆ Data Protection Act 1998
- ◆ Performing rights issues

Outcome 2

Describe the purpose of different types of insurance cover.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Public Liability insurance
- ◆ Professional Indemnity insurance
- ◆ Products Liability insurance
- ◆ Employer's Liability insurance
- ◆ Personal Accident and Sickness insurance
- ◆ Contents insurance

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

Outcome 3

Describe the role of a professional association in establishing and maintaining education and training of practitioners and promoting codes of personal, professional and ethical practice.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Aims/role and responsibilities of a professional association
- ◆ Membership criteria
- ◆ Standards of personal, professional and ethical conduct
- ◆ Codes of practice and disciplinary procedures
- ◆ Roles of the register of practitioners
- ◆ Self-regulation and CPD

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide a written portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

Outcome 1

- ◆ describe the purpose of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its subsequent regulations
- ◆ outline the statutory and common law duty of care of employers and employees under the Act and its regulations
- ◆ describe the concepts of 'preventable' and 'inherent' risks
- ◆ describe the role and process of undertaking risk assessments
- ◆ describe the general purpose and principles of the Law of Delict
- ◆ explain the meaning of 'reasonable care' with reference to that which a Soft Tissue/Sports Therapist should give
- ◆ outline the consequences of breaches of statutory and common law duty of care for employers, employees and self-employed (legal, financial, corporate, individual)
- ◆ identify legislation on equality and inclusion of which a practitioner should be aware
- ◆ describe when and why it would be necessary to have a chaperone present at consultation and treatment sessions
- ◆ describe the role of the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme and identify the sections required by a Soft Tissue/Sports Therapist
- ◆ describe the purpose of the Data Protection Act 1998, the information that can be held on individuals and when/if information can be shared with third parties
- ◆ describe how, and the length of time, for which client records, should be stored and retained
- ◆ describe the legislative and licensing issues relating to the playing of background music, radio, TV and video in the clinical environment

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

Outcome 2

Describe the purpose of available insurance cover with specific reference to the need for a Soft Tissue/Sports Therapist to hold these (Public Liability, Professional Indemnity, Products Liability, Employer's Liability, Personal Accident and Sickness, Contents Insurance).

Outcome 3

- ◆ describe the aims/role of an industry relevant professional association
- ◆ describe the responsibilities of the selected professional association to its members and the public
- ◆ describe the purpose of the selected association's Code of Practice (Ethics/Conduct)
- ◆ identify the reasons under which a complaint may be made to the selected association about a member
- ◆ briefly describe the selected association's disciplinary procedures and the implications for the member if the complaint is upheld
- ◆ identify the selected association's standards of personal and professional conduct that a member must follow
- ◆ identify the selected association's standards of safeguarding the public
- ◆ identify the selected association's standards for members working with colleagues or other professionals
- ◆ describe the purposes of the selected association's register of practitioners
- ◆ describe the selected association's CPD requirement and their role in providing opportunities for the member



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 20 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit introduces the learner to current legislation of relevance to the Soft Tissue/Sports Therapist and the types and requirement for insurance cover. It also raises the learner's awareness of the role of professional associations in establishing and maintaining standards of education and training within the professions, safeguarding the public and ensuring that appropriate standards of personal and professional conduct are adhered to.

The Unit includes knowledge elements within the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for Sports Therapy which are applied and assessed in practical Units across the awards HNC Soft Tissue Therapy and HND Sports Therapy.

It is suggested that the Unit is delivered in the early or mid-part of the course, and is run concurrently with practical subjects to give context to the content. However, for those with previous therapy experience, this could be delivered as a stand-alone Unit.

Outcome 1

Main purposes of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and its subsequent regulations (Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999) laying statutory duty on the employer and the employee should be introduced. The concept of common law duty of care should be covered and consequences of breach of statutory duty for either employer or employee – legal and financial (criminal action - fine, imprisonment) or negligence (civil action – damages/compensation) outlined. Other consequences include (but are not limited to) bad publicity for the organisation, individual reputation affected.

Risk assessment: definition; process — five steps as outlined in HSE booklet.

Law of delict: purpose; main points *legal rights of others infringed (negligence indicated), *wrongful conduct by defender (acted negligently), *loss/injury suffered can be given monetary value (damages) * must be established link between conduct and loss (causation).

Standard of care: concept of that of a 'reasonable man'

Equality and Inclusion Acts: Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000; Disability Discrimination Act (2005); Human Rights Act (1998); Equality Act (2006); any amendments to these or any other relevant Acts on statute book.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

Legislative and licensing issues: Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 (or any amendments); Public Performance licence (PPL); Performing Rights Society (PRS) Licence; reference to the requirement of both for use in Soft Tissue/Sports Therapy working environments, need to check whose responsible for obtaining licences in multi-disciplinary clinics and consequences of not holding relevant licences

Outcome 2

All types of cover should be discussed with specific reference to circumstances whereby the practitioner was responsible for obtaining cover themselves.

Outcome 3

The learner should obtain information from a specific, relevant professional association in order to answer this information. All information should be clearly referenced to the website, page/link, document title, item number, as well as providing the specific text example.

Where the learner is required to identify the association's standards, the learner should identify items within the association's code of practice (ethics/conduct) which relate to personal and professional conduct/safeguarding the public/working with colleagues or other professionals.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

This Unit provides underpinning knowledge required to ensure that the practitioner is aware of his/her legal duties and conducts practice that complies with current legislative requirements. Delivering the Unit concurrently with a practical Unit such as *Clinical Sports Massage/Basic Objective and Subjective Assessment* will allow the learner to assimilate and apply the information in context. The HSE provides clear guides on their website that will allow learners to gather much of the evidence required on the Health and Safety at Work Act, Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations and risk assessment. Learners will require more direction to assimilate information on criminal and civil actions and the Law of Delict.

Learners are required to have learner insurance before they commence working on any external learners in the practical Year 1 Units (*Clinical Sports Massage, Sports Massage for Events and Special Populations, Clinical and Team Experience 1*) and the Unit ensures they are aware of the need for adequate insurance. The purpose of the different types of insurance should be discussed together with relevant examples for their need by Soft Tissue/Sports Therapy practitioners. Learners should be expected to apply this knowledge in their attempts to achieve the Evidence Requirements.

In order for learners to appreciate the roles and responsibilities of a professional association and benefits of membership, it is advised that learners undertake some basic research of those associations relevant to the professions of Soft Tissue/Sports Therapy (eg FHE, STO, SST). It is suggested however, that the learner attempts the Evidence Requirement by using the SMA website, documentation and procedures (Codes of Conduct, Ethics and Practice, Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures) given this association has endorsed the HNC Soft Tissue Therapy award which comprises the first year course, enrolled learners can become learner members of this association and upon graduation can become full members.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

Throughout the delivery of this Unit, there should be overt linkage to practical working environments.

With appropriate guidance to the learner, this Unit lends itself to being developed, delivered and assessed through a virtual learning environment.

Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

Outcomes 1–3

All Outcomes can be assessed by an open-book, written portfolio of evidence.

Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment.

Currently, no material exists for e-assessment, however, it would be possible for this to be developed in the future.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

This Unit provides opportunities for developing Core Skills in *Communication*, *ICT* and *Problem Solving*. Depending on the mode of delivery, it could also enhance skill in Working Co-operatively with Others.

Outcome 1 requires learners to research factual information and apply it to a specific profession. Much of the information can be accessed through government websites and learners will have to organise and produce accurate information to indicate understanding for their profession.

Outcome 2 provides opportunities for discussion on situations and circumstances which may arise in the working environment which require insurance cover and the consequences for lack of cover.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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Outcome 3 requires learners to research information from professional association websites and engage in critical thinking as to the quantity and quality of information supplied, the benefits and safeguards offered to the member and the public. It requires the learner to assimilate and organise the information presented to accurately achieve the Evidence Requirements.

The Unit includes elements of the National Occupational Standards in Sports Therapy which are essential for the achievement of both the HNC Soft Tissue Therapy and HND Sports Therapy awards.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

Unit title: Sports Therapy: Professional Standards

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

In order to work in the areas of Soft Tissue/Sports Therapy you need to be aware of the legislation that affects you and the duty of care that you have to others. If you are not aware of this it can have serious consequences that may lead to criminal and/or civil court actions. The first part of this Unit introduces you to the basic information that you need to help ensure that this situation does not occur.

The second part of the Unit covers the different types of insurance and what you might need and when, as this also gives you some protection against any possible civil court actions that you may face. Having the correct insurance can help prevent disastrous financial situations which may ruin your career if something does go wrong.

The final part of the Unit introduces the role and responsibilities of professional associations and raises your awareness of the benefits to both its members and the public. It also helps you to understand your own responsibilities of working within the profession; your personal and professional conduct, your responsibilities towards your clients and the expectations as to how you work with your colleagues and other professionals.

This is a knowledge-based Unit and the assessment is a written portfolio of evidence. However, you will apply what you learn in your practical Units, both at HNC and HND level. The Unit contains elements of the National Occupational Standards for Sports Therapy and are essential components in both the HNC Soft Tissue Therapy and HND Sports Therapy awards.