



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

Unit code: H76E 35

Superclass: PF

Publication date: March 2016

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable registered dental nurses to develop the underpinning knowledge required to devise the additional planning and provision for patients who require special care dentistry. This Unit will investigate the theoretical aspects and skills required to ensure a positive patient experience and to ensure efficient clinical support is achieved. Candidates will explore the different health related factors that require special care provision to enable them to understand the contra-indications of dental care, the barriers experienced by some patients and the benefit of preparation through care plans. Candidates will also examine relevant legislation and evidence based guidance that informs the appropriate delivery of care.

Outcomes

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

- 1 Explain the impact of disabilities to accessing and receiving dental care.
- 2 Investigate the legislation and policies that protect patients' rights when accessing dental care.
- 3 Analyse the barriers that special care patients face in accessing dental care and devise strategies and coping mechanisms to overcome them.

Credit points and level

1.5 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should be registered with the General Dental Council (GDC).

Candidates should be working in clinical settings that provide special care dentistry. The candidate will be involved in patient management and will be expected to demonstrate initiative in their role whilst supporting the dentist and wider care team.

Core Skills

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

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.

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 contained within the PDA in Dental Nursing: Supporting Special Care Provision and is also an optional Unit in the framework of the HND in Dental Nursing.

All skills will be applied in line with the General Dental Council Scope of Practice.

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 candidates 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: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

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. 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 impact of disabilities to accessing and receiving dental care.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Class of disability — physical/mental/learning/medically compromised
- ◆ Medical conditions that contra-indicate dental procedures
- ◆ Phobic/Anxious patients
- ◆ Pain management for the special care patient and sedation techniques
- ◆ Effects on oral health

Outcome 2

Investigate the legislation and policies that protect patients' rights when accessing dental care.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Current relevant legislation
- ◆ Current relevant guidelines and policies
- ◆ Definitions of disability
- ◆ Health literacies

Outcome 3

Analyse the barriers that special care patients face in accessing dental care and devise strategies and coping mechanisms to overcome them.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Barriers in accessing services and strategies for overcoming them
- ◆ Referral of patients to an appropriate clinical environment
- ◆ Social/Economic factors that affect oral health
- ◆ Barriers to communication and how to overcome them
- ◆ Environmental factors and how to overcome them

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Outcome 1

Explain the impact of disabilities to accessing and receiving dental care.

Evidence Requirements

- ◆ Explain the disability classifications and their impact on providing oral health care.
- ◆ Outline the medical conditions that contra-indicate routine dental care.
- ◆ Explain the challenges for an anxious/phobic patient in accessing dental care.
- ◆ Describe the range of pain management and sedation techniques available to the special care patient

Outcome 2

Investigate the legislation and policies that protect patients' rights when accessing dental care.

Evidence Requirements

- ◆ Outline the legislation that applies to different groups of special care patients.
- ◆ Explain the impact of legislation on the skills and knowledge required by the treating dental team.
- ◆ Explain the relevance of legislation and guidance in the protection of patients' rights to dental care.
- ◆ Examine the adverse impact on patients with health literacies and socio-economic factors and identify the relevant guidance for their support.

Outcome 3

Analyse the barriers that special care patients face in accessing dental care and devise strategies and coping mechanisms to overcome them.

Evidence Requirements

- ◆ Analyse barriers that different groups of special care patients face in accessing dental care
- ◆ Devise relevant strategies and coping mechanisms that may be used to overcome barriers
- ◆ Create a referral pathway for a minimum of 2 patients requiring different special care dentistry, indicating appropriate service in relation to treatment need and environment
- ◆ Identify methods of support for individuals affected by socio-economic factors in obtaining the care required
- ◆ Explain how methods for effective communication with patients who are challenged in understanding their treatment can be implemented

- ◆ Risk assess one domiciliary and one other clinical environment and identify reasonable adjustments to enable access for patients



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

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 60 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is designed to enable registered dental nurses to effectively contribute to the care of dental patients who require additional support. The Unit explores and investigates the theoretical aspects underpinning the care of patients who are unable to undergo routine dental treatment due to medical conditions or disabilities. Candidates will research the contra indications to routine care, the legislation and guidance specific to this target group, barriers relating to accessing care and strategies employed within the dental team to care for patients who require additional support.

On completion of this Unit candidates will have the necessary knowledge and skill to create individual care plans for patients which will involve — planning a care pathway, implementation of referral protocols, and provision of effective patient management — pre, during and post treatment. Candidates will refer to and advise the dental team on relevant legislation and guidance for patient and carers.

Successful completion of this Unit will allow the candidate to continue within the PDA in Dental Nursing: Supporting Special Care Provision or progress into the HND in Dental Nursing. The candidate will have the opportunity to extend their role within the GDC Scope of Practice and provide additional support to the health care team and patients in the provision of dental care.

Outcome 1

This Outcome will focus on investigating the target group of patients that require additional support in accessing dental care. This will incorporate areas of health that challenge patients in daily living and in relation to management of their oral health care.

–

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

Teaching of this Unit should include:

- ◆ The different classes of disability and the daily impact to the individual:
 - Physical:
 - Visual/hearing/sensory impairment
 - Musculoskeletal
 - Bariatric
 - Mobility aid users — wheelchair/walking aids
 - ◆ Levels of mobility — slight/bedridden
 - Mental:
 - Phobic
 - Anxiety
 - Psychosis
 - Depression
 - Stress disorder
 - Obsessive compulsive disorder
 - Anorexia nervosa/bulimia
 - Addiction
 - Learning:
 - Profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)
 - Downs syndrome
 - Special Learning Difficulties (SpLD)
 - Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)
 - Autism
 - Medically Compromised:
 - Disease –cardio/respiratory/digestive
 - Auto immune /immuno-suppressed
 - Terminal conditions/ palliative care
 - Epilepsy
 - Diabetes
 - Crohn’s disease
 - The medical conditions that:
 - require additional information from other health care professionals
 - increase pre preparation for patients, eg INR, Prophylaxis
 - changes normal routine for medications
 - require referral to specialised dental environment/team
 - requires hospitalisation for treatment
- ◆ The impact of patients with phobia/anxiety in receiving dental care:
 - Levels of phobia
 - Degrees of anxiety
 - Management of continuing care for patients with phobia/anxiety
- ◆ The options available for pain management and sedation techniques for special care patients:
 - Available sedation techniques including ASA scores
 - NICE Guidelines [CG112] Sedation in Under 19s: using sedation for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes

- Use of NSAIDS in patients who receive high level medication
- Pain management for the special care patient with limited communication skills
- Pain management for patients with addictions
- Learners should be guided to relevant professional guidance , for example;
Standards for Conscious Sedation in the Provision of Dental Care- Report of the
Intercollegiate Advisory Committee for Sedation in Dentistry 2015
Conscious Sedation in Dentistry Dental Clinical Guidance - Scottish Dental Clinical
Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) 2006

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

Outcome 2

This Outcome will research and source the legislation and guidance that supports the special care patient. The Unit content will explore the areas that protect the patients' rights and the impact to the dental service in working within these boundaries.

The teaching should include:

- ◆ Equality Act 2010:
 - Protected characteristics
 - Adherence to the Equality Act 2010
 - Maintaining diversity and rights within the dental environment
 - Relevant laws and acts concerning diversity and rights
- ◆ The Patient Rights (Scotland) Act 2011
- ◆ The Scottish Government's National Oral Health Improvement Strategy for Priority Groups 2012
- ◆ GDC Standards for the Dental Team (2013)
- ◆ Advocacy/Guardianship:
 - Legal aspects
 - Application
 - Responsibility
- ◆ Definitions of Disability:
 - Categorisation of disabilities eg medical/physical/mental
- ◆ Vulnerable Groups:
 - Children
 - Adults
 - Poor
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Financial — Socio Economic
 - Current definition of vulnerable groups in line with Scottish Government guidance
- ◆ Types of abuse — vulnerable groups including children:
 - Physical
 - Psychological or Emotional
 - Sexual
 - Discriminatory
 - Institutional
 - Neglect
- ◆ Reporting structure for protection of vulnerable groups within your local health board area
- ◆ Importance of protecting vulnerable groups and your role in ensuring the safety of individuals
- ◆ Adults for Incapacity Legislation and the impact on patient access resulting in the implementation of the Law
- ◆ Process of obtaining Adults with Incapacity certificates for patients

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

- ◆ Consent — informed — for patients who may not understand or unable to give consent
- ◆ Situations where consent would be sought from someone other than the patient
- ◆ Types of literacies identified by Scottish Government
- ◆ ALIS 2020 and Better Health Better Care — Scottish Government
- ◆ Adverse impact to health for patients with literacies challenges
- ◆ Signposts to seek help and guidance for patients with literacies challenges

Outcome 3

This Outcome requires the candidate to examine their working practice and the variations on delivery of dental care for patients that are unable to undertake routine dental care. The theoretical aspects will underpin service delivery. Assessment of risk and identification of reasonable adjustments can apply to General Dental Practice/Salaried Service/Community environments.

The teaching will include:

- ◆ Barriers to dental care for specific groups of Special Care patients:
 - Physical
 - Mental
 - Economic
 - Support/transportation
 - Accommodation (Support/Secure/Hospital)
- ◆ Strategies and coping mechanisms for patients and ways of supporting the clinician:
 - Use of available techniques — relaxation
 - Attention — maintaining patient focus
 - Behavioural factors
- ◆ Local availability and access of services for patients that require additional support:
 - Service availability
 - Accessibility –transportation, ergonomics,
 - Equipment
 - Oral Health Initiatives — eg Childsmile/Caring for Smiles
- ◆ Referral Pathways — Secondary Dental Service and from General Dental Practice
- ◆ Environmental factors that influence special care dentistry for different groups of patients
- ◆ Research and indicators that distinguish the socioeconomic factors for patients:
 - SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) — Scottish Government
- ◆ Methods of communication that can be accessed for patients who experience barriers to verbal/written/behavioural communications:
 - Staff training and awareness
 - Working with carers/guardians
 - Teach back technique
- ◆ Assessment of risk and identification of reasonable adjustments

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

Delivery of this Unit will be predominantly theoretical with the candidate using research and group work to enhance their learning. The Unit should be delivered in the order of the Outcomes to allow evolution from the factors of special care dentistry to the constraints around the provision of treatment.

A range of teaching methods will allow the candidate to use their personal experience and knowledge as part of their learning, activities can include — group work, discussion forums, research of documents, interviews and scenario based peer discussion.

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 candidates.

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

Outcome 1

Assessment for this Outcome would be in the form of a report to cover all Evidence Requirements. Candidates should be encouraged to base their report on the following:

- ◆ Evidence based information
- ◆ Definitions of disability — including referencing
- ◆ Research of areas of disability and challenges encountered
- ◆ Description of available pain management and sedation techniques' techniques including guidance (SDCEP)

Outcome 2

This Outcome could be assessed using a closed-book assessment comprising of MCQ, Short answer and extended answer questions. The questions should cover all areas of knowledge and may include a case study style question.

Question bank and answer plan should be available to allow a range of knowledge to be assessed. Questions papers must be held securely prior to use and cross marked.

Outcome 3

This Outcome could be assessed using case studies. The range, scope and target group should be available to allow candidate to seek cases that will allow their knowledge and skills

to be recognised. A patient care pathway would demonstrate the insight of the candidate in researching and sourcing treatment for the needs of the individual.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

The suggested case studies should include:

- ◆ Target group — child/adult
- ◆ Patient additional support need
- ◆ Referral
- ◆ Barriers
- ◆ Resources used/advised/researched
- ◆ Risk assessment
- ◆ Evaluation/reflection

Since the Component of Critical Thinking at SCQF Level 6 is embedded in this Unit, it is strongly recommended that you follow the assessment guidelines given. If you wish to use a different assessment model, you should seek prior verification of the assessment instrument(s) you intend to use to ensure that the Core Skill is still covered.

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 candidate 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.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

This Unit has the Problem Solving component Critical Thinking embedded in it. This means that when the candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 6.

Candidates will have opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5, *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at SCQF level 5 and *Communication* at SCQF level 6.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	clarification of evidence requirements in line with updates to the Professional Guidance	08/03/16

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2014, 2016

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision (SCQF level 8)

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.

This specialist Unit is designed to give you the underpinning knowledge and skills required to contribute effectively to the treatment of patients who are unable to undergo routine dental care. You will learn the theoretical aspects that underpin the skills required to ensure a positive patient experience.

You will learn about the different groups of special care patients, the contra-indications of dental care, the barriers experienced by some patients and the benefit of preparation through care plans.

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

- 1 Explain the impact of disabilities to accessing and receiving dental care.
- 2 Investigate the legislation and policies that protect patients' rights when accessing dental care.
- 3 Analyse the barriers that special care dental patient's face and identify strategies and coping mechanisms to overcome them.

Assessment may be through a range of questions, completion of a report and case studies.

This qualification will allow you to progress within the PDA in Dental Nursing: Supporting Special Care Provision or allow you access to the HND in Dental Nursing.

Successful completion of the PDA may provide you with the knowledge and skills to extend your role in line with the GDC Scope of Practice and work within a broad range of multi-disciplinary environments.