



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Dental Nursing: Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases (SCQF level 7)

Unit code: H9R7 34

Superclass: PF

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Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to develop the learners' knowledge of the aetiology and progression of oral diseases and where to access the latest guidance on Oral Health. Learners will also explore methods of preventative dental care and how to safely manage and handle materials and equipment used during restoration of the dentition.

Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will 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, equipment and instruments used during and finishing restorative procedures for plaque related diseases.

Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 7: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7*)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

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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.

This Unit is specifically designed for delivery as part of the PDA in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7. It may also be delivered as a stand-alone Unit for Continuing Professional Development.

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

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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 common oral diseases.

Knowledge and/or Skills

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

Outcome 2

Outline methods for the prevention and management of oral diseases.

Knowledge and/or Skills

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

Outcome 3

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

Knowledge and/or Skills

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

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can identify and describe:

Outcome 1

- ◆ Micro-organisms involved in the caries and periodontal disease process.
- ◆ The process of demineralisation and remineralisation.
- ◆ Significance of plaque in the oral disease process.
- ◆ Signs and symptoms of inflammation.
- ◆ Contributing factors to the progression of caries and periodontal disease.

Outcome 2

- ◆ Methods/aids that can be used to maintain good oral hygiene.
- ◆ Clinical intervention, hygiene treatment, scaling and polishing.
- ◆ Role of dental health messages in the prevention and management of oral diseases.
- ◆ Impact of Direct Access on preventive dentistry.
- ◆ Effects of diet in oral disease.
- ◆ Effect of frequent intake of sugary snacks and drinks, in the caries process.
- ◆ Erosion, abrasion, attrition, non-cariou tooth surface loss.
- ◆ Role of topical and systemic fluoride in preventing oral disease and how this can be administered.

Outcome 3

- ◆ Different matrix retainers and bands.
- ◆ Different finishing instruments.
- ◆ Storage of amalgam and disposal of waste amalgam.
- ◆ Contents of a mercury spillage kit and how to use it.
- ◆ Common hazards associated with restorative equipment, instruments and materials.
- ◆ Types of materials used during and finishing restorative procedures.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

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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 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

The Unit may be undertaken and assessed as a standalone Unit to provide knowledge and understanding of the causes, treatment and prevention of plaque related diseases.

This Unit has been developed primarily as part of the PDA in Dental Nursing. 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 four 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.

Guidance on approaches to delivery 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.

For Outcomes 1–3 the following should be covered:

For Outcome 1, learners 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. Learners should be made aware of the importance of regular brushing, flossing etc and the role that regular dental visiting can play in the overall maintenance of good oral hygiene and health. They should be aware that regular dental visits can identify emerging problems such as the development of erosion of the tooth surface or gingival recession and 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.

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

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The role of diet is of crucial importance to good oral health and learners should understand the key messages of Oral Health and Nutrition Guidance issued by NHS Health Boards.

Smoking and consumption of alcohol 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, learners should look at the range of clinical interventions that can support the management of good oral health and where patients may be referred for further advice on smoking, alcohol and nutrition.

Outcome 3 focuses on the use of materials and instruments in restorative procedures. Learners should be able to identify and understand the use of a range of processes, equipment, instruments and materials, eg linings, dressings, permanent filling materials, their storage and safe disposal during restorative procedures. Different finishing instruments and their uses should be discussed, eg mandrels, discs, polishing burs.

Health and safety considerations should also be covered particularly in relation to hazards such as, eg etching solutions and gels, light curing units, amalgam and the safe storage and handling of materials instruments and equipment and disposal of waste material. Learners should be familiar with the contents of a mercury spillage kit and know how to use this effectively.

There are a number of statutory and regulatory bodies which monitor aspects of Dental services in Scotland. This includes monitoring of standards of care, education provision for all dental care professionals and guidance on providing high quality patient care.

Further information and references which may be helpful to delivery are listed below.

The General Dental Council (GDC) — regulates all dental care professionals (DCPs).
General Dental Council — www.gdc-uk.org

The Scottish Government — NHS practice inspections, compulsory audit. Guidance issued by the Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health> and the Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme www.sdcep.org.uk

NHS Education for Scotland: develops and delivers education and training for those who work in NHS Scotland www.nes.scot.nhs.uk

It should be noted that the references given are correct at the time of publication; however centres should ensure that learners have access to the most current and up to date publications and web sites.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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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.

It is recommended that the Outcomes for this Unit be assessed holistically in an assessment paper (approx. 30 minutes) containing multiple choice, short answer, and scenario based questions to cover all Outcomes.

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.

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.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit. However, there may be opportunities to develop aspects of *Communication, Problem Solving, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Numeracy* and *Working with Others*.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for learners

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

This section will help you decide if 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, where applicable, opportunities for further learning and employment.

This Unit is designed to develop your knowledge of the aetiology and progression of oral diseases. You will also explore methods of preventative dental care and how to safely manage and handle materials and equipment used during restoration of the dentition. Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre

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 learners to apply for registration as a Dental Care Professional with the General Dental Council.

There are 3 Outcomes to complete in this Unit, upon completion you 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.

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

You will have the opportunity to develop your Core Skills in *Communication, Problem Solving, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Numeracy*.

Post registration qualifications are available for progression. These qualifications have been produced to reflect the General Dental Council's Scope of Practice for Dental Nurses

Professional Development Awards in:

- ◆ Dental Nursing: Delivering Oral Health Interventions at SCQF level 8
- ◆ Dental Nursing: Supporting Special Care Provision at SCQF level 8
- ◆ Intravenous Sedation for Dental Care Professionals at SCQF level 8
- ◆ Orthodontic Dental Nursing at SCQF level 8
- ◆ Dental Care Professionals: Dental Laboratory Skills at SCQF level 8
- ◆ Recording Patient Assessment for Dental Care Professionals at SCQF level 8
- ◆ Oral Health Care: Dental Managers at SCQF level 8
- ◆ Dental Radiography (Operator) for Dental Care Professionals at SCQF level 9

Higher National Certificate (HNC) in:

- ◆ Oral Health Care at SCQF level 7

Higher National Diploma (HND) in:

- ◆ Dental Nursing at SCQF level 8