

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Skeletal Imaging

**Unit code:** DW9E 34

**Unit purpose:** The purpose of this Unit is to enable the candidates to examine patients referred for the radiographic examination of the upper and lower limbs, chest, thorax and abdomen.

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

- 1 Describe the radiographic techniques applied to produce plain film images of the upper limbs, lower limbs and chest.
- 2 Describe the radiographic techniques applied to produce plain film images of the pelvis and spine.

**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:** It is recommended that candidates should have completed the Units Patient Care in Radiography, General Radiographic Anatomy and Radiation Physics: Foundations, prior to studying this Unit. It is further recommended that candidates should have completed the Unit Diagnostic Radiography: Introduction, or has equivalent prior knowledge from their work in this field.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication at level 6 and Problem Solving and Working with Others at level 5 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 forms part of the framework for HNC Allied Health Professions: Diagnostic Imaging.

**Assessment:** Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using short (eg ten questions) closed-book multiple choice question examinations.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards**

**Unit title:** Skeletal Imaging

**Unit code:** DW9E 34

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 the radiographic techniques applied to produce radiographic images of the upper and lower limbs, and chest

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Interpret a request for a radiographic examination
- ◆ Radiographic projections suitable to undertake examinations of:
  - Upper limb (excluding shoulder joint)
  - Lower limb (excluding hip joint)
  - Chest
- ◆ Patient positioning for plain film examinations of the upper limb, lower limb and chest
- ◆ Processes and procedures to generate a plain film image of the upper limb, lower limb, and chest

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ safely and effectively undertake radiographic examination of the upper and lower limb and chest

The evidence should refer to the reason for referral, how the procedure was carried out and the requirements for respect of patient individuality and confidentiality.

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using short (eg ten questions) closed-book multiple choice question examinations.

## **Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)**

**Unit title:** Skeletal Imaging

### **Outcome 2**

Describe the radiographic techniques applied to produce plain film images of the pelvis and spine

#### **Knowledge and/or skills**

- ◆ Interpret a request for a radiographic examination
- ◆ Protocols for plain film imaging of the pelvis and spine
- ◆ Projections suitable to undertake plain film examinations of the pelvis and spine
- ◆ Patient positioning for plain film examinations of the pelvis and spine
- ◆ Processes and procedures to generate a plain film image of the pelvis and spine
- ◆ Special consideration of radiation dose during plain film examinations of the pelvis and spine

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need evidence to demonstrate their knowledge and/or skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ safely and effectively undertake all aspects of radiographic examinations of the pelvis and spine

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using short (eg ten questions) closed-book multiple choice question examinations.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** DW9E 34  
**Unit title:** Skeletal Imaging  
**Superclass category:** PB  
**Original date of publication:** September 2006  
**Version:** 01

### History of Changes:

Version	Description of change	Date

**Source:** SQA

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## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Skeletal Imaging

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

It is expected that candidates for this Unit will be working in a diagnostic clinical environment. Delivery will include both actual clinical sessions, practical activity, simulation and role-play in addition to classroom delivery and discussion.

A wide variety of (good and poor) images should be available for study.

Candidates should continue to develop their understanding of their role as professionals within the health care team.

Useful information to help with this Unit can be found at the following web-sites:

**www.sor.org.uk** (Society and College of Radiographers)

**www.BIR.ac.uk** (British Institute of Radiology)

and in the following professional journals:

Synergy  
Radiography  
Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice  
Clinical Oncology  
Clinical Radiology  
Outcome 1 and 2

The candidate should be able to interpret information documented on an X-ray request card. On completion of the Unit they should be able to perform under supervision routine radiographic projections with appropriate patient positioning suitable for the examination of:

- ◆ Upper limb (excluding shoulder joint)
- ◆ Lower limb (excluding hip joint)
- ◆ Chest
- ◆ Pelvis
- ◆ Spine

Candidates should know the processes and procedures required to generate plain film image of:

- ◆ Upper limb (excluding shoulder joint)
- ◆ Lower limb (excluding hip joint)
- ◆ Chest
- ◆ Pelvis

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Skeletal Imaging

◆ Spine

Special consideration should be given to radiation dose during plain film examinations of the pelvis and spine and to deviations from protocol regarding the above.

### Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Assessment of all Outcomes may be undertaken using short (eg ten questions) closed-book multiple choice question examinations.

#### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication at level 6 and Problem Solving and Working with Others at level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

### Open learning

For information on normal open learning arrangements, please refer to the SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance and Distance Learning* (SQA 2000).

### Candidates with additional support needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Alternative Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on SQA's website: [www.sqa.org.uk](http://www.sqa.org.uk).

## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Skeletal Imaging

This Unit is designed to continue to build on the knowledge base candidates have gained in the initial profession-specific Unit, 'Diagnostic Radiography: Introduction'.

This Unit provides you with the knowledge and skills to undertake a range of plain film radiographic investigations of the upper and lower limb, chest, pelvis and spine. Details of how you may perform a range of examinations for these areas of the human body will be discussed and demonstrated.

You will also learn how to evaluate their own images for quality and presentation allowing them to produce high quality radiographs.

Guidance of how to judge a radiograph to be of a quality for diagnosis will be given and you will have the opportunity to view radiographs and practice skills in deciding their diagnostic quality.

You will find useful information to help you with this Unit at the following web-sites:

**www.sor.org.uk** (Society and College of Radiographers)

**www.BIR.ac.uk** (British Institute of Radiology)

and in the following professional journals:

Synergy  
Radiography  
Journal of Radiotherapy in Practice  
Clinical Oncology  
Clinical Radiology