

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction

Unit code: DW94 34

Unit purpose: This Unit discusses basic cell biology relevant to cancer development and treatment. It describes the basic principles of common cancer treatments for both radical and palliative care.

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

- 1 Explain the process of carcinogenesis and how this differs from normal cell behaviours.
- 2 Describe the characteristics of malignant and non-malignant tumours.
- 3 Discuss the principles and modalities of cancer management.

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 studied the Units Patient Care in Radiography and General Radiographic Anatomy prior to this Unit and also to have undertaken or be currently studying Radiation Physics: Foundations, or have equivalent prior knowledge from their work in this field.

Core Skills: There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication at level 6, Problem Solving at level 5 and IT at level 4 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: Radiotherapy.

Assessment: This Unit may be assessed holistically through a research based investigation describing the carcinogenic processes and behaviours of a common cancer. The report will be expected to discuss the aetiology and epidemiology of the disease, the investigative processes involved in its diagnosis and the treatment modalities that may be used in its management.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction

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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

Explain the processes of carcinogenesis and how this differs from normal cell behaviours

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Process of normal cell reproduction and differentiation
- ◆ Carcinogenesis and the process of tumour formation
- ◆ Characteristics of a cancer cell

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ explain the processes of carcinogenesis
- ◆ explain how carcinogenesis differs from normal cell reproduction

Assessment guidelines

This Unit will be assessed through a research based investigation describing the carcinogenic processes and behaviours of a common cancer. The report will be expected discuss the aetiology and epidemiology of the disease, the investigative processes involved in its diagnosis and the treatment modalities that may be used in its management.

Outcome 2

Describe the characteristics of malignant and non-malignant tumours

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Characteristic of benign and malignant disease
- ◆ Tumour types and classifications
- ◆ Basic cancer aetiology and epidemiology
- ◆ Methods by which cancer spreads around the body
- ◆ Cancer screening and diagnosis

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ compare and contrast the characteristics of benign and malignant tumours
- ◆ explain how their behaviours affect the disease progression processes

Candidates will also need to:

- ◆ identify the names and classifications of common cancers
- ◆ describe the aetiological and epidemiological features of common cancers

Assessment guidelines

This Unit will be assessed through a research based investigation describing the carcinogenic processes and behaviours of a common cancer. The investigation will be expected to discuss the aetiology and epidemiology of the disease, the investigative processes involved in its diagnosis and the treatment modalities that may be used in its management.

Outcome 3

Discuss the principles and modalities of cancer management

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Terminology commonly used in an oncology setting
- ◆ Commonly used cancer grading and staging systems
- ◆ Basic principles of radical and palliative approaches to cancer treatment
- ◆ Basic principles of commonly used cancer treatment methods including surgery, chemotherapy, hormone therapy and radiotherapy
- ◆ Purpose and applications of palliative care
- ◆ Modalities and management of common cancers
- ◆ Cancer prevention

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ use and apply terminology, grading and staging systems commonly encountered within an oncology environment

Candidates will be expected to:

- ◆ demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the principles of cancer management and the treatment modalities commonly employed within an Oncology environment
- ◆ explain the principles of palliative care

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction

Assessment guidelines

This Unit will be assessed through a research based investigation describing the carcinogenic processes and behaviours of a common cancer. The investigation will be expected to discuss the aetiology and epidemiology of the disease, the investigative processes involved in its diagnosis and the treatment modalities that may be used in its management.

Administrative Information

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Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction
Superclass category: PB
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction

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 this Unit will be delivered making on-going reference to the candidates' workplace experiences and drawing on the group's knowledge of a variety of clinical settings.

The behaviour of common cancers should be discussed and related to patient pathways through a variety of case studies. The internet sites given in the candidate information sheet and links from them will be particularly useful in the delivery of this Unit.

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

www.sor.org (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

Outcomes 1 and 2

This Unit expands the candidates' knowledge of cell biology and normal and abnormal cell development including the characteristics of a cancer cell. Candidates should be familiar with the signs and symptoms of cancer and the characteristics of benign and malignant tumours. The range of cancer screening, investigations and diagnosis mechanisms should be considered. Candidates should discuss carcinogenesis, process of tumour formation, tumour types, classifications and the mechanisms of tumour spread. The candidates should have some knowledge of the aetiology and epidemiology of cancers.

Outcome 3

Candidates should understand the importance of grading and staging mechanisms in relation to the modalities used in the management of common cancers. The range of radical and palliative treatments should be discussed along with their purposes and applications. Candidates should understand the roles of surgery, chemotherapy, hormone therapy and radiotherapy in the management of cancer and the principles of palliative treatment.

The range of issues related to cancer prevention should be considered including 'healthy life style issues' and screening mechanisms.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit will be assessed through a research based investigation describing the carcinogenic processes and behaviours of a common cancer. The investigation will be expected to discuss the aetiology and epidemiology of the disease, the investigative processes involved in its diagnosis and the treatment modalities that may be used in its management.

It will involve research skills using a variety of resources including books, journals and the internet.

The Unit will be delivered through a series of interactive lectures and seminar sessions. It is anticipated that a significant amount of learning and consolidation of knowledge will take place in the clinical workplace.

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of Communication at level 6, Problem Solving at level 5 and IT at level 4 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.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Clinical Oncology: Introduction

In this Unit you will learn about Oncology, the study of cancer. Oncology covers the entire spectrum of processes and procedures used to diagnose, treat and care for a patient with cancer.

This Unit starts off by introducing the basic concepts of cancer development then follows the cancer management process from its biological basis, through presentation of symptoms, investigation, diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care.

You will develop a knowledge and understanding of the radical and palliative approaches to cancer management including the purpose and application of palliative care. You will be introduced to all of the major cancer treatment modalities including surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy as well as an overview of new and emerging anti cancer treatments.

The Unit finishes with a look at methods to prevent cancer and to promote good public health. This Unit will be assessed through a research based investigation.

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

www.sor.org (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