



**National Qualifications 2015
Internal Assessment Report
Skills for Work: Health Sector**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Courses

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

Skills for Work Health Sector at National 4 (C261 74)

Skills for Work Health Sector at National 5 (C261 75)

General comments

All centres externally verified had a clear and accurate understanding of the requirements of the national standards. This was evidenced by the high standards of planning and implementation and the constructive feedback offered to the candidates undertaking the Course.

Course specifications, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Assessors are extremely comfortable in implementing the Course and make good use of the Course and Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials. This is demonstrated within the innovated practice, links with local health care professionals, visiting speakers, integration of delivery with career guidance, and other provision available to candidates.

Evidence Requirements

All centres to date have utilised the tools of assessment for these Course/Units. However, individual delivery employs unique and very different implementation which meets the needs of all candidates, including those with additional support needs. Working within SQA recommendations and systems, centres are able to offer a candidate-centred approach to meet individual learning needs.

Administration of assessments

All centres offered evidence of robust assessments procedures and internal verification.

Candidates are also provided with the opportunity to gain additional qualifications, eg within the Health Awareness Unit at National 4 candidates are provided with the opportunity to gain an additional qualification via 'Heat Start' programme, and Moving and Handling Awareness and the REHIS Food Hygiene Certificate are provided as part of the Working Safely Unit at National 4. This is a strong indication of the innovative practice which allows candidates to develop employability skills and be 'work ready' as a result of completing these qualifications.

Areas of good practice

Centres continue to employ innovative practice and the centres visited throughout this academic year have offered evidence that indicates good practice within the delivery and assessment of Skills for Work: Health Sector at National 4 and 5.

Feedback to candidates gave clear areas for remediation, and also commended candidates' effort and success. It is important for centres to provide positive feedback, an approach that emphasises singling out positive behaviour, as this provides key advantages to assessors in addressing candidate performance. Providing only negative, critical feedback can lower candidate morale and confidence and leave candidates feeling under-appreciated.

Within some centres HNC Care and Administrative Practice candidates have collaborated in working with the Skills for Work: Health Sector candidates during practical sessions. The clinical teaching areas are being effectively utilised to support the learning experience. This approach lends to individual support and teaching, allowing those candidates who may be struggling with aspects of the Course content additional assistance.

Assessors continually work to forge positive links with industry and arrange guest speakers or visits outwith the college, providing candidates with the opportunity to observe and analyse different fields within the health care sector. Realistic application to practice reinforces classroom learning and provides a different perspective of the roles within health care provision.

Resources appear to be plentiful within each centre for practical activities and assessments, eg thermometers and blood pressure monitors, promoting a more practical approach to learning. There also appears to be an emphasis on integrating the Units with other areas of the curriculum to avoid duplication with, for example, career information and advice. This builds on Curriculum for Excellence guidance and avoids duplication in preparing children and young people for employment. Where Units have been integrated, it is clearly documented.

Many groups of candidates undertaking Units have varying degrees of learning difficulty. Delivery of the Units has been amended (in line with SQA recommendations) to take account of individual needs. Where necessary arrangements have been made to provide candidates with additional support during assessments, eg providing a computer to ensure a candidate can type rather than write responses to the questions, or additional time for practical work which may prove challenging due to lack of dexterity.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres should consider delivering each programme in its entirety to encourage personal development and employability skills.