

## Higher National Unit Specification

### General information for centres

**Unit title:** Principles of Health Care Practice

**Unit code:** F0K8 34

**Unit purpose:** This Unit is designed to enable candidates to develop an understanding of a range of health care professions and the values and skills required to practice in a care setting.

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

- 1 Explain the principles of regulation for professional practice.
- 2 Explain the principles of practice in relation to care 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:** Candidates should have good communication skills, both written and oral. These can be evidenced either by the achievement of nationally recognised qualifications for example Higher English or a qualification equivalent to SCQF level 6 or by the completion of a pre-course interview part of which could take the form of a written assignment. The skills to undertake this Unit could also be demonstrated through an employer's reference or the process of application and interview. In addition to this candidates should preferably have undertaken some work experience, paid or voluntary, in a health care setting.

**Core Skills:** There are opportunities to develop the Core Skills of:

Communication at SCQF level 5  
Problem Solving at SCQF level 5  
Working with Others at SCQF level 5  
Information Technology at SCQF 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.

## **General information for centres (cont)**

This Unit is included in the framework of the HNC Health Care. It is further recommended that this Unit is taught at the beginning of the course prior to the candidates commencing placement.

**Assessment:** Assessment for this Unit could be in the form of a written report and a case study.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Principles of Health Care Practice

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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 principles of regulation for professional practice

#### Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Professional education and registration
- ◆ Principles of the care professions
- ◆ Codes of conduct
- ◆ Continuing professional development
- ◆ Awareness of framework of clinical governance within the health care sector
- ◆ Ethical issues and professional boundaries
- ◆ Collaborative working within multi-disciplinary teams
- ◆ Parameters that occur within professional practice including:
  - levels of accountability and responsibility
  - knowing the limits of one's own abilities
  - when referral to other practitioners is appropriate
  - understanding the role of professional supervision

#### Evidence Requirements

Each candidate will require evidence of the knowledge and skills of the regulation of professional practice. All knowledge and skills listed must be evidenced on each assessment occasion.

#### Assessment guidelines

The assessment for this Outcome could be in the form of a report comparing and contrasting the principles of regulation of two care professions. The candidates must produce an individual report but can refer to the information gathered through their own or group research. This report should be approximately 1,500, word processed and submitted by an agreed date. Examples of care professions may include nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy or social work.

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

**Unit title:** Principles of Health Care Practice

### **Outcome 2**

Explain the principles of practice in relation to care management

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

*Principles:*

- ◆ Promotion of individuals' rights/choices/beliefs
- ◆ Equality and diversity
- ◆ Confidentiality
- ◆ Dignity and privacy
- ◆ Risk Management to include health and safety factors

*Care Management:*

- ◆ Models of Care

*Factors which can affect health:*

- ◆ Physical
- ◆ Psychological
- ◆ Social
- ◆ Environmental

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Each candidate must be able to explain the principles of practice in relation to care management:

- ◆ identify an appropriate model of care
- ◆ identify and explain the principles of practice
- ◆ identify and explain factors which can affect an individuals health

#### **Assessment guidelines**

Evidence may be presented in the form of a case study with the candidate required to answer all the specific questions relating to the knowledge and skills. This case study should be issued to the candidates two weeks prior to the assessment and the assessment should be carried out under controlled conditions with the candidate bringing to the assessment no more than 100 words of notes.

## Administrative Information

**Unit code:** F0K8 34  
**Unit title:** Principles of Health Care Practice  
**Superclass category:** PA  
**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: Principles of Health Care Practice**

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**

This Unit is intended to help candidates link theory and health care practice. It is recommended that this Unit be taught at the beginning of the course to give inexperienced candidates an awareness of principles of care practice and care professions prior to beginning placement.

#### **Outcome 1**

Is concerned with defining the care professions as distinct from the wide range of care providers both paid and unpaid. A starting point in exploring this issue would be to identify the range of people who provide care for others and highlight those categorised as professions. The generic term profession should be explored with candidates, referring to the areas detailed within the knowledge and skills section of this Outcome. Candidates should investigate a range of care professions comparing and contrasting the different codes of conduct, professional regulations, education and registration and continuing professional development.

The roles of regulatory bodies for the different professions can also be explored. The need for such regulation should be discussed with candidates, in particular the need for protection of the public and issues of litigation should be explored. The use of case studies would be relevant for those issues.

Ethical issues relating to practice should be investigated by the candidates and discussed in the context of the care professionals' responsibilities and accountabilities. Ethical issues could also be discussed in the context of relevant care legislation. Issues of professional boundaries, the impact of personal experience, views and beliefs should be explored with the candidates and used to begin to prepare them for the difficult dilemmas sometimes met by care professionals. The ability to recognise one's own limitations of professional competence as being a central aspect of good professional practice should be discussed and explored in the context of the candidates' point in their own professional development. Issues of clinical and professional supervision should also be explored. Collaboration between the care professions should be recognised and discussed. An awareness of the framework of clinical governance with the health care sector should be explored, highlighting the important roles of research and clinical evaluation to practice.

Candidates could investigate a range of professions, building up a folio of information that could be used as a resource for the summative assessment of this Outcome. The range of care professions may include nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy or social work.

#### **Outcome 2**

Looks at the care management and the key principles used in care practice. Candidates should identify the principles of good practice in relation to the delivery of individual patient/client care: promotion of individual rights and choice; equality and diversity; maintenance of confidentiality; effective communication skills; recognition of the individual's rights and beliefs.

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

### **Unit title:** Principles of Health Care Practice

The Outcome should also assist the candidate to develop knowledge and an understanding of the concept of the care process. The candidate should be aware that various models relating to the care process exist. The stages of assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation should be examined and elaborated on using a variety of case studies. The candidate should use this Outcome to develop the range of communication skills necessary for effective participation in the care process.

The following resources are not exclusive and are for guidance only.

#### **Web Sites**

[www.nhs50.uk](http://www.nhs50.uk)  
[www.careandhealth.com](http://www.careandhealth.com)  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
[www.show.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk)

#### **Books**

*Care in Practice for Higher Still*, Janet Miller, Hodder and Stoughton.  
*Nursing Models and Nursing Practice* (2nd Edition) Aggleton & Chalmers, Palgrave.  
*Common Foundation Studies in Nursing* (3rd Edition) Kenworth, Snowley & Gilling, Churchill Livingston.  
*Foundation in Nursing Theory and Practice* (UK Edition) Hazel Health, Mosby.  
*Health and Health Care in Britain* (3rd Edition) Rob Baggot, palgrave Macmillan.

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

This Unit is likely to form part of a Group Award which is primarily designed to provide candidates with knowledge and skills related to a specific occupational area. This Unit should be delivered in a way that enables candidates to appreciate its relevance to the occupational area concerned. Wherever possible, links should be drawn with situations which candidates will understand, eg Health and Safety issues related to specific work situations.

#### **Outcome 1**

Candidates should be asked to investigate a range of care professions and compare and contrast the different codes of conduct, professional regulations, education, registration and continuing professional development. Each candidate should produce an individual report of approximately 1,500 which should be word processed and submitted by an agreed date.

#### **Outcome 2**

This assessment should be carried out under controlled condition.

A written case study and questions should be issued to the candidates who will be required to answer all the questions. The case study and questions should be issued to the candidates 2 weeks prior to the date of assessment and no more than 100 words of notes should be brought to the assessment.

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

### Unit title: Principles of Health Care Practice

The following gives examples of the types of questions that could be used to assess this Outcome:

- 1 Identify three principles of care practice and explain how you would apply them to your chosen individual patient/client in the case study.
- 2 Describe the role of the members of the care team and explain how the care team can work collaboratively within the care plan.
- 3 Describe an appropriate model of care for your chosen individual patient/client in the case study.
- 4 Identify and describe two of the factors listed which may affect the individual patient/client.
- 5 (a) Describe health and safety factors which affect the individual patient/client and/or carers.  
(b) Describe measures taken to reduce these health and safety factors.

### *Opportunities for developing Core Skills*

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

**Communication:** Will be evidenced via the candidate's work with individuals and groups as well as within written assignments.

**Problem Solving:** Critical thinking, planning and organising, reviewing and evaluating will be evidenced through the candidates written work and through group and individual research and presentation.

**Working with Others:** Will be evidenced through group presentations within the classroom activities.

**Information Technology:** Will be evidenced through obtaining, collating and processing information and data.

### Open learning

This Unit could be delivered by distance learning. However, it would require planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of candidate evidence. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the assessments are delivered in a supervised environment under controlled conditions.

For further information and advice, please see *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030).

### Candidates with disabilities and/or additional support needs

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: Principles of Health Care Practice**

This Unit is designed to enable you to link the theory of health care to practice experience. Inexperienced candidates will have the opportunity to begin to have an awareness of the principles of the care professions prior to commencing placement and experienced candidates will have the opportunity to show their experience through various aspects of the Unit.

There are two assessments for this Unit:

Outcome 1 will be an individual report which compares and contrasts the principles of two care professions. You will be given the opportunity to research care professions and to build up a portfolio of information which can be used for the summative report. This report should be approximately 1,500, be word processed and submitted by an agreed date.

Outcome 2 will be case study with specific questions which will be issued to you two weeks prior to the date of the assessment. The assessment will be carried out under controlled conditions where you will be required to answer all the questions relating to the case study. You may bring to the assessment no more than 100 words of notes.

On completion of this Unit you will be able to:

- 1 Explain the principles of regulation for professional practice.
- 2 Explain the principles of practice in relation to care management.