SFHCHS159 - SQA Code HC7L 04
Provide support to individuals to develop their skills in managing dysphagia

Overview

This standard covers working under the direction of an appropriate specialist, to support individuals participating in therapy programmes to restore or maintain optimum independence in the management of dysphagia.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.
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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 obtain valid consent from the individual before carrying out the agreed treatment programme
P2 carry out the skill development activities correctly as specified in the individual's care programme using the methods directed by the therapist
P3 seek immediate advice and assistance from a relevant contact where the level of support needed by the individual is beyond your scope of practice
P4 provide the individual with relevant information and advice, as instructed by an appropriate specialist, at a level and pace that is appropriate to their:
   P4.1 level of understanding
   P4.2 culture and background
   P4.3 preferred ways of communicating
   P4.4 needs
P5 refer any questions which are outside your scope of practice to answer to a relevant member of the individual's care team
P6 provide the individual with sufficient time, opportunity and encouragement to practice existing and newly developed skills, in accordance with the individual's care programme
P7 encourage the individual to develop their knowledge and understanding of dysphagia and the techniques used in its management
P8 support and encourage the individual to promote their own health and wellbeing and be as self managing as possible
P9 provide oral intake in the consistency and appearance identified in the individuals care programme
P10 provide accurate and prompt feedback to the individual's therapist and care team to support them in their effective future planning of the individual's care
P11 keep accurate, complete and legible records of the support provided and the individual's response to it, in line with organisational policy
Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to providing support to individuals to develop their skills in managing dysphagia

K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance

K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer

K4 why it is necessary to obtain valid consent prior to working with an individual and the methods used to achieve this where the individual is not able to give their valid consent directly

K5 why you should seek to support and encourage the individual to promote their own health and wellbeing and how this might be achieved

K6 the sorts of secondary difficulties that can arise in individuals suffering from dysphagia, how to recognise their emergence and what action you should take to deal with them

K7 the importance of communication that is responsive to the needs of the individual

K8 the types of information and advice which you are able provide the individual with according to your scope of practice

K9 the types of activities that can be carried out with people in order to help them develop swallowing skills

K10 the types of information that should be fed back to the individual’s therapist and/or the rest of the care team, and when and how you should do this

K11 the information that should be recorded and the importance of doing this contemporaneously

K12 record keeping practices and procedures in relation to diagnostic and therapeutic programmes/treatments

K13 anatomy and physiology relevant to maintaining a safe swallow

K14 the main clinical causes of dysphagia

K15 why the environment and support required by the individual is important including:

K15.1 lighting
K15.2 heating
K15.3 environmental stimulus (i.e. distractions)
K15.4 posture and mechanical supports (i.e. pillows, standing frames, specialist seating)
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K15.5 utensils, cutlery and feeding aids
K15.6 sensory aids (i.e. glasses, dentures, hearing aids)
K15.7 verbal and physical prompts
K15.8 rate of presentation of oral intake
K15.9 verbal and non-verbal cues from individual

K16 how an individual's medical and physical state may impact on their ability to swallow, in terms of:
K16.1 sensory impairment
K16.2 loss of bodily function
K16.3 loss of cognition

K17 the sorts of issues and risks that can arise with dysphagia

K18 the main types of dysphagia and their presentation/identification

K19 the reasons for modification of the consistency and appearance of oral intake including:
K19.1 impact on nutrition
K19.2 safe working practices when modifying oral intake
K19.3 complying with manufacturers instructions and local protocols
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Additional Information

**External Links**
This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments
The candidate and assessor must only sign below when all Performance Criteria and Knowledge points have been met.

**Unit assessed as being complete**

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**Internal Verification —**  
to be completed in accordance with centre’s IV strategy

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This Unit has been subject to an admin check in keeping with the centre’s IV strategy.

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**Unit completion confirmed**

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