

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

Unit code: DH3T 34

Unit purpose: This Unit provides candidates with knowledge and skills required to contribute to health care support. This will enable candidates to assist health care staff in the delivery of holistic care to individuals who have health care needs. On completion of this unit candidates will have developed an understanding of the health care process and will have demonstrated the ability to:

- ◆ Contribute to care planning
- ◆ Explain the importance of using a holistic approach when contributing to health care support
- ◆ Perform procedures to support health care safely and in accordance with organisational policy

Credit value: 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 an understanding of care values and the importance of communication skills in care delivery. It is also desirable that candidates have knowledge of human development. The achievement of Mandatory Units from a named award e.g. HNC in Social Care, SVQ Care 3 or other equivalent care qualifications could be used to demonstrate prior knowledge in these areas.

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

There may be opportunities to develop the following core skills:

Communication: oral communication could be demonstrated through the day to day work with individuals receiving care and written communication can be developed through completion of records and reports.

Working with Others: as candidates are required undertake work in collaboration with colleagues. Candidates are also required to work under the supervision of a Registered Nurse.

Numeracy: candidates are required to carry out a number of health care support procedures which involve taking physical measurements, preparing medicine dosage and measuring fluid outputs.

General information for centres (cont)

Context for delivery: This Unit is included in the framework of HNC Social Care, but could also be delivered as a 'stand alone' unit and could be useful as part of a professional development programme.

It is essential that it should be taught and assessed in relation to work practice under the supervision of a Registered Nurse.

Assessment: It is recommended that assessment for this unit is integrated for all outcomes. The assessment must be based on practical work placement experience. Assessment could take the form of **one** case study (based on real practice) to demonstrate candidate ability to contribute to health care support for a range of needs. In some circumstances it may be necessary to generate evidence from candidate contributions to caring for more than one individual to provide sufficient evidence for outcome 3. This should not disadvantage candidates who are able to provide all the evidence of different needs from an extended piece of work with one individual receiving care. Confidentiality must be protected.

A Registered Nurse must sign the candidate's work as authentic in terms of the candidate's role in contributing to health care support.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

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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

Contribute to care planning

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Models used to plan and deliver care
- ◆ Care planning as a process: assessment (including risk assessment), planning, implementation and evaluation
- ◆ Work within a team to contribute to health care support

Evidence requirements

The candidate will provide evidence of their knowledge and understanding of how a health care model (theoretical framework) is used to plan and deliver effective health care. The candidate will demonstrate the ability to contribute to the stages of the care planning process and will have evidence of their understanding of the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of needs. The candidate will provide evidence of involvement in the implementation stage and their contribution to other stages either directly or indirectly to provide effective health care. The candidate will also have an understanding of the parameters of their role and their relationship to others in the care team.

Assessment should take the form of a case study. One model used to plan and deliver care for an individual will be described and evaluated in this case study. The four stages of care planning will be described and the candidate will demonstrate that they have contributed to a minimum of one of these stages. The candidate will reflect on their relationship to others in the team and demonstrate their ability to work with a minimum of two others in contributing to health care support.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment could take the form of a case study which will integrate and assess all three outcomes. Confidentiality must be protected and a Registered Nurse must sign the candidate's work as authentic in terms of the candidate's role in contributing to health care support.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

Outcome 2

Explain the importance of using a holistic approach when contributing to health care support

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Holistic care that demonstrates an understanding of physical, social, cognitive and emotional development and needs
- ◆ Sensitivity in interactions
- ◆ Physical and emotional distress
- ◆ Pain relief

Evidence requirements

The candidate will provide evidence that they understand the importance of providing holistic health care support that is appropriate to the individual and will display sensitivity in their interactions. Case study evidence will include an awareness of the physical and emotional distress that individuals may experience when health care support is required. The candidate will also demonstrate the capacity to recognise distress and to know how to respond appropriately to ensure distress is minimised and effective pain relief is achieved.

Assessment could take the form of a case study and will demonstrate candidate's ability to provide holistic care and demonstrate sensitivity in interactions. The candidate will also reflect on issues relating to possible physical and emotional distress and pain relief in relation to the individual in their care

Assessment guidelines

Assessment could take the form of a case study which will integrate and assess all three outcomes. Confidentiality must be protected and a Registered Nurse must sign the candidate's work as authentic in terms of the candidate's role in contributing to health care support.

Outcome 3

Carry out procedures to support health care safely and in accordance with organisational policy

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ Organisational policy in relation to procedures
- ◆ Health care support:
 - Infection control
 - Simple dressings
 - Mouth care
 - Suction

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

- Approaches to ensuring adequate nutrition
- Moving and handling
- Pressure area prevention and treatment
- Continence management
- Obtaining specimens
- Drug administration including oxygen
- Physical measurements and monitoring

Evidence requirements

It will be necessary for candidates to provide evidence that they are aware that health care procedures should be documented in the care plan and must be carried out in accordance with organisational policy. Evidence must also include an understanding that supervision of health care procedures is the responsibility of a Registered Nurse and that this can initially take the form of direct instruction and supervision and can then be delegated to carers who are judged by the Registered Nurse as competent to undertake this activity. It will be necessary for the candidate to recognise areas of competence and the parameters of their role.

Assessment could take the form of a case study which will allow candidates to demonstrate a contribution to health care support in a minimum of **three** of the areas listed above in the knowledge and skills section.

Assessment guidelines

Assessment could take the form of a case study to demonstrate candidate ability to contribute to health care support in a range of situations. The case study should integrate and assess all three outcomes. Confidentiality must be protected in these accounts and a Registered Nurse must sign these accounts as authentic in terms of the candidate's role in contributing to health care support.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DH3T 34
Unit title:	Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs
Superclass category:	PH
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

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 primarily intended to help candidates working in a care setting to contribute to individuals' care by providing appropriate health care support. Content for the Unit and candidate evidence must always be underpinned by values that acknowledge rights and choices appropriate to the age and needs of the individual receiving care, acknowledge individuals' personal beliefs and identity, maintain confidentiality and demonstrate anti-discriminatory practice

Outcome 1 introduces the candidate to theoretical frameworks that are applied to the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of care. Theoretical frameworks should include Maslow and the concept of a 'Hierarchy of Needs' and Roper, Logan and Tierney's 'Activities of Living'. Other theoretical frameworks may also be used in the workplace and candidates should be encouraged to find out about any models used. Tools and methods used for assessment purposes should be described e.g. assessment, checklists, observation, asking questions, discussion, meetings, diaries and scrapbooks. The usefulness of each of these methods of assessment could be evaluated in relation to the age and needs of different individuals receiving care. The assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation stages of the care planning process should be described and candidates should be aware of the cyclical nature of the process. The role of the individual and significant others in contributing to this process should be explained. The role of the carer who is contributing to health care support should also be emphasised. Candidates should be given the opportunity to explore issues relating to developing competences to enable a contribution to health care. The ability to recognise a need for clinical and professional supervision and to recognise limitations of competence should be discussed as central to good practice.

The elements that are essential to effective teamwork should be discussed and candidates should be able to describe their role in providing health care support and their contribution to effective team working.

Outcome 2 provides an opportunity to explore individual differences and how to make interactions and health care support appropriate to each individual. Candidates could compare and contrast health care support that is solely focused on completing a task and health care support that is carried out in a context of supporting other developmental needs. For example, changing a protective dressing on a healing wound may be carried out as a task but should be carried out in a manner that responds to the wider needs of the individual.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

Discussion should take place about the way in which physical, social, cognitive and emotional factors can influence an interaction. Case studies could be used to illustrate how informing or preparing a individual before carrying out health care support can differ. For example a child, someone with learning difficulties, or an elderly person with dementia will require the carer to be sensitive and interactions will reflect their different needs.

The issue of distress and pain should be examined and factors contributing to distress examined e.g. lack of information, poor preparation, and embarrassment. The concept of pain and pain relief should be explored. Case study material could be used to illustrate the problem of recognising pain or distress in situations where the individual has limited ability or is unable to express this discomfort e.g. where the individual is a child, has learning difficulties or dementia. The candidate's role in identifying, reporting and monitoring the response of individual receiving health care support should be emphasised as essential to the achievement of effective care. This should link with the candidate's role in contributing to effective team working discussed in outcome 1.

Outcome 3 allows candidates to demonstrate their ability to apply theory to practice. Discussion should take place about the need to have organisational policies. Candidates should be encouraged to locate and read policies that exist in their workplace. Group work could be carried out to compare different policies e.g. on infection control.

Tutor input should be given to provide essential information on **each** of the elements listed under health care support, although candidates need only be assessed on a sample basis.

Clinical staff or people with expertise in the field should be involved as visiting speakers or in the provision of research based current practice.

Infection control – Transmission of infection can be discussed and hand washing must be demonstrated and emphasised as important to reducing risk of infection. Candidates should be aware that policies in relation to wearing protective clothing and waste disposal should be adhered to at all times.

Simple dressings – explanation of procedure and preparation of the individual, hygiene measures, disposal of dressing, observation of site, application of new dressing, reporting and recording, should be discussed in relation to this task.

Mouth care – explanation of procedure and preparation of the individual, hygiene measures, cleansing and disposal of equipment, observation of mouth, reporting and recording, should be discussed in relation to this task.

Suction - explanation of procedure and preparation of the individual, hygiene measures, checking of equipment, disposal of equipment, observation, (application of new dressing around tracheostomy if required), reporting and recording, should be discussed in relation to these tasks.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

Approaches to ensuring adequate nutrition - an understanding of equipment to be used e.g. infusion or percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (peg feeding), explanation of procedure and preparation of the individual, hygiene measures, disposal of equipment, observation of site/individual, reporting and recording, should be discussed in relation to this task.

Moving and Handling – candidates may have completed training in relation to moving and handling, and evidence of current practice can be accepted. Candidates should be aware of the principles of safer people handling and that training should be updated regularly in accordance with organisational policy.

Pressure area prevention and treatment - an understanding of assessment tools e.g. Waterlow and Braden could be examined. Techniques and equipment to be used to prevent pressure should be explored e.g. pressure relieving mattresses. Observation, monitoring and reporting in relation to skin condition should be discussed.

Contenance management - assessment, use of continence aids e.g. pads and catheters. Hygiene, measuring and recording in relation to fluid balance should be discussed.

Obtaining specimens - specimens may include urine, faeces, sputum and blood. Documentation e.g. specimen forms, explanation and preparation of the individual, hygiene, reporting and recording should be discussed.

Drug administration - Responsibilities in relation to drug administration should be discussed. Candidates should be familiar with routes of administration e.g. subcutaneous, intra-muscular, absorption patches. Familiarity with equipment that could be used in relation to drug administration e.g. oxygen equipment, nebulisers/inhalers, infusion equipment, suppositories.

Physical measurements and monitoring – Candidates should have an opportunity to practice measuring temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure. Normal values should be known and candidates should be familiar with reporting and recording.

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

This Unit is one of the optional Units in the Group Award - HNC in Social Care. It can be delivered as part of the Group Award or as a 'stand alone' Unit.

Candidates need to be working in a care setting where they are contributing to health care support.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

SVQ Links

Evidence from this Unit may provide evidence of some PCs and Knowledge of the following SVQ Units:

HSC357 Prepare for, carry out and report on extended feeding procedures with individuals

HSC358 Carry out risk assessment in relation to skin breakdown

HSC359 Prepare for, carry out and report on clinical procedures with individuals

HSC360 Move and position individuals

HSC361 Undertake the monitoring and recording of individual's physiological measurements

HSC 374 Assist in the administration of medication

HSC375 Prepare to, and administer medication to individuals, and monitor the effects

HSC376 Obtain and process venous blood from individuals

HSC378 Insert Urethral Catheters, and monitor the effects

Open learning

The teaching input for this Unit could easily be delivered with open learning materials. **However, assessment must be in the work setting, and requires observation of practice as well as written work, and needs to be assessed/authenticated by a Registered Nurse.**

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

Special needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment Arrangements* (SQA, 2001).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Contribute to Meeting Health Care Needs

In undertaking this Unit you will learn about the models used to plan health care and the care process. You will work in a care team and contribute to the health care of an individual. You will learn what is meant by holistic care and demonstrate the ability to provide holistic care and be sensitive in your interactions with individuals receiving health care. You will have the opportunity to become familiar with organisational policies and procedures in relation to areas of care where health care support is required. You will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to enable you to carry out procedures and contribute to health care support.

You will require to work in a care setting and assessment will take the form of a case study to demonstrate your ability to contribute to health care support by contributing to care planning, using a holistic approach and performing procedures safely and in accordance with organisational policy. You will participate in a care team under the supervision of a Registered Nurse and contribute to health care support by carrying out procedures as part of a care plan for an individual.