

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Therapeutics: Common Medical Conditions

Unit code: DP95 34

Unit purpose: This Unit will help the candidate develop the knowledge and skills required to apply pharmacological information to specific clinical conditions and to evaluate and provide information with regards to the specific clinical conditions.

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

- 1 Outline the use of current drug treatments for a variety of clinical conditions.
- 2 Identify the implications of clinically significant drug interactions within drug regimens with regard to the specified clinical conditions.
- 3 Evaluate the information available and provide appropriate information to the patient with regard to the specified clinical conditions.

Credit points and level: 2 HN Credits at SCQF level 7: (16 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: Entry is at the discretion of the centre, although it is highly recommended that the candidate has prior knowledge of pharmacology. Candidates may have approved qualifications that enable them to register with the RPSGB or one or all of the following qualifications: Pharmacology: Introduction; Pharmacology: Major Body Systems and Pharmacology: Chemotherapeutics Agents or equivalent.

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.

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.

Assessment: Evidence for this Unit should be generated through assessment undertaken under controlled conditions for all Outcomes using reference books provided by the centre. Assessment should be carried out on a sample basis. Evidence for Outcomes 1–3 should be generated through an integrated assessment for all three Outcomes using two different clinical case studies. The assessment should not last longer than three hours.

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

Outline the use of current drug treatments for a variety of clinical conditions

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ clinical conditions
- ◆ patient groups
- ◆ symptoms of clinical conditions
- ◆ rationale of using different drug regimens
- ◆ drug dosages and monitoring mechanisms
- ◆ side-effects
- ◆ problems associated with the correct usage
- ◆ monitoring mechanisms

Outcome 2

Identify the implications of clinically significant drug interactions within drug regimens with regard to the specified clinical conditions

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ mechanisms of drug interactions
- ◆ drug interactions
- ◆ consequences and significance of drug interactions
- ◆ minimising the impact of interactions

Outcome 3

Evaluate the information available and provide appropriate information to the patient with regard to the specified clinical conditions

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Therapeutics: Common Medical Conditions

Knowledge and/or skills

- ◆ timing of doses
- ◆ administration of medicines
- ◆ side-effects
- ◆ other medicines

Evidence requirements for the Unit

Evidence for the knowledge and skills in this Unit will be generated through open book, supervised conditions. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge and skills by providing written/oral answers to questions related to two case studies.

During the clinical case studies candidates should cover *all the knowledge and skills* items at least once. Although sampling within each knowledge and skill is allowed.

The case studies should cover at least:

- ◆ Two different clinical conditions from two of the following:
 - clinical conditions
 - gastro-intestinal problems
 - respiratory problems
 - cardiovascular problems
 - central nervous system problems
 - endocrine problems, musculoskeletal and malignant disease
- ◆ Two of the following five patient groups:
 - Patient Groups: adult, elderly, child, pregnant women and nursing mothers (A different patient group must be selected for each case study)

At least two drug interaction (one per case study) and explain the effect it could have on the patient.

Candidates must also be able to demonstrate that they can provide appropriate information to the patient on the use of their medicines.

The assessment for Outcomes 1–3 will be combined to form a single assessment. The assessment should be undertaken under open book, controlled conditions using reference books provided by the centre. Candidates should not have access to any other notes.

The assessment should last no longer than three hours in total for both case studies.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Therapeutics: Common Medical Conditions

Assessment guidelines

Assessment could be done on an Outcome by Outcome basis and all knowledge and skills must be covered on each occasions. However, it is recommended that a holistic approach to assessment is undertaken, to ensure the candidates are not cover assessed. The assessment is open book but candidates should not be permitted to take any information such as notes, text books or other reference material into the assessment. Only reference material provided by the centre should be used.

Administrative Information

Unit code:	DP95 34
Unit title:	Therapeutics: Common Medical Conditions
Superclass category:	PE
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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Therapeutics: Common Medical Conditions

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 80 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is a mandatory Unit in the group award HNC Pharmacy Services Development and Management. It is essential that candidates are aware that they need to achieve all evidence requirements for the award.

Outcomes should be taught and assessed in an integrated manner to provide a holistic approach to assessment.

Outcome 1

Outline the use of current drug treatments for a variety of medical conditions

Candidates should understand the symptoms, aims of treatment and drug regimens used to treat clinical conditions such as:

- ◆ peptic ulcer, reflux oesophagitis and inflammatory bowel disorders
- ◆ asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cystic fibrosis
- ◆ angina, myocardial infarction, cardiac failure, and hypertension
- ◆ parkinson's disease, epilepsy and psychiatric disorders
- ◆ diabetes, under active thyroid, overactive thyroid
- ◆ osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis
- ◆ Hodgkin's lymphoma, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer and palliative care

- ◆ Candidates should understand the use, mode of actions, dosage, and side-effects of the individual drugs used within drug regimens to treat common medical conditions.

- ◆ Candidates should have a basic understanding of the problems related to treating the young and the elderly due to changes in drug handling caused by changes in absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion and sensitivity. Candidates should have some understanding of the problems which may arise in the elderly due to multiple pathology, polypharmacy and compliance.

- ◆ Candidates should understand the potential risks involved in the use of drugs in the various stages of pregnancy ie 1st, 2nd and 3rd trimesters.

- ◆ Candidates should have a basic understanding of the factors affecting drug excretion into breast milk and the potential problems when drugs are used during breast-feeding.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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Outcome 2

Candidates should have an awareness of the implications of clinically significant drug interactions. They should have a basic understanding of the mechanisms of clinically significant drug interactions causing additive effects, antagonist effects, interference with absorption, plasma protein binding, metabolism and excretion to enable them to identify potential drug interactions.

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Outcome 3

Candidates should understand the information available and be able to give patients appropriate information for the given clinical condition on the use of medicines in treating medical conditions. These should include appropriate timing of doses, correct administration of medicines, potential side-effects, appropriate warnings and precautions to be taken by the patient.

- ◆ peptic ulcer, reflux oesophagitis and inflammatory bowel disorders
- ◆ asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cystic fibrosis
- ◆ angina, myocardial infarction, DVT, cardiac failure and hypertension.
- ◆ parkinson's disease, epilepsy and psychiatric disorders.
- ◆ diabetes, under active thyroid, overactive thyroid
- ◆ osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis
- ◆ Hodgkin's lymphoma, acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, lung cancer and palliative care

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Possible scenario for the clinical condition could be:

- ◆ an example assessment is available on request

Open learning

All outcomes are appropriate to Open Learning with tutor support at all stages. It is the responsibility of the delivering centre to ensure the authenticity of the candidate's work. Assessment evidence must be generated under controlled conditions as described in the Evidence Requirements section.

For information on open learning arrangements please refer to SQA guide *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (A1030, February 2001)*

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

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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 Assessment Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities and/or Additional Support Needs*, which is available on the SQA website www.sqa.org.uk.

General information for candidates

Unit title: Therapeutics: Common Medical Conditions

This Unit is designed to enable you to develop your knowledge and skills on drug regimens used to treat common medical conditions, to then be able to apply this knowledge and skills in a variety of healthcare settings.

The Unit has three main areas, each the subject of a different Outcome. The three main areas are taught in an integrated manner. You will look at clinical conditions and different patient groups. This will include symptoms, dosage, side-effects and problems associated with the correct usage, monitoring, if relevant and the rationale of using different drug regimens for specific clinical conditions.

You will also cover clinically significant drug interactions and their mechanism of action and how these interactions can affect people.

Finally you will look at evaluating information you have available for specific clinical conditions and decide on what information should be given to the person regarding their medication. You will also be required to consider what information if any they should have to ensure they use their medication safely.

To complete the Unit successfully, you will have to achieve a satisfactory level of performance on one piece of assessed work. Towards the end of the Unit you will undertake an assessment under controlled conditions. It will last no longer than three hours, and you will be required to answer questions on the three areas described above. You will be permitted to use text books provided by the centre, but you will not be allowed personal notes or personal text books.

You should also be able to describe the mechanisms of drug interaction.