



## Higher National Unit specification: general information

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

**Unit code:** FN3R 35

**Superclass:** PF

**Publication date:** June 2011

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02 (March 2023)

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable candidates to undertake relevant parts of oral health assessment in dental practice and take the responsibility for providing oral health messages to a range of patients.

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

- 1 Explain the role of the dental nurse during an oral health assessment.
- 2 Explain the regulations, guidelines and health and safety requirements relating to oral health assessment and the provision of oral health education.
- 3 Provide oral health education or advice to a range of patients in dental practice.

### Recommended prior knowledge and skills

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre although candidates should possess good communication skills and be working within a dental environment. Candidates undertaking this Unit should be registered with the General Dental Council as a dental care professional. It would be beneficial if the candidate had successfully completed the following Units (or equivalent):

- ◆ Offer Information and Support to Individuals on the Protection of their Oral Health F301 04
- ◆ Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning F69C 34

### Credit points and level

1.5 Higher National Unit credit(s) at SCQF level 8: (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8\*)

*\*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.*

## **General information (cont)**

### **Credit points and level**

### **Core Skills**

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of Communication at SCQF Level 6 Working with Others at SCQF Level 6 and Problem Solving 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. This Unit is an optional Unit within the HND Dental Nursing.

### **Assessment**

This Unit has **three** assessments.

For Outcome 1 the candidate will produce a report based on actual patient log sheets explaining the role of the dental nurse and the purpose, content and process of an oral health assessment

For Outcome 2 the candidate should produce a report explaining the regulations, ethical considerations, guidelines and health and safety requirements relevant to oral health assessment and provision of oral health education.

Outcome 3 should be assessed by observation of the candidate providing oral health education or advice to a range of patients.

## Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

**Unit code:** FN3R 35

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 role of the dental nurse during an oral health assessment.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Content, purpose and process of an oral health assessment
- ◆ Role and boundaries of the dental nurse during an oral health assessment
- ◆ Communication methods with a range of patients
- ◆ Data collection and storage
- ◆ Communication of data to other members of the dental team

#### Evidence Requirements

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Explain the purpose of an oral health assessment
- ◆ Explain the content and process of an oral health assessment
- ◆ Explain the role and boundaries of the dental nurse in oral health assessment
- ◆ Demonstrate good communication skills with a range of patients to include each of the following: adults, children, adolescents, anxious patients and carers
- ◆ Collect and record patient data, observing necessary confidentiality requirements
- ◆ Communicate patient data to dentists and other members of the dental team

#### Assessment Guidelines

Candidates should produce a report detailing the purpose, content and processes of an oral health assessment and explaining the role of the dental nurse.

It is recommended that the evidence be gathered from a minimum of 10 case studies/log sheets (of real patients) to include at least one from the specified list of an adult, a child, a young person, will outline the remaining elements of Outcome 1. These 10 patient case studies/log sheets may be used for Outcome 3.

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

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

### **Outcome 2**

Explain the regulations, guidelines and health and safety requirements relating to oral health assessment and the provision of oral health education

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Relevant current legislation
- ◆ GDC Standards for Dental Professionals/Scope of Practice
- ◆ Legal and ethical considerations
- ◆ Relevant current guidance

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Outline key aspects of current legislative requirements and codes of practice relevant to the oral health assessment
- ◆ Explain the importance of safe working practice when providing oral health education
- ◆ Explain the legislation and guidance governing the collection, handling and storage of patient information

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

Candidates should produce a report explaining the regulations, guidelines and health and safety requirements relating to an oral health assessment and the provision of oral health education. Candidates should be encouraged to use NHSS websites and other relevant sources which should be acknowledged in the completed report.

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

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

### **Outcome 3**

Provide oral health education or advice to a range of patients in dental practice.

#### **Knowledge and/or Skills**

- ◆ Factors affecting oral health
- ◆ Diseases of the oral cavity
- ◆ Prevention
- ◆ Effective communication methods for a range of patients
- ◆ Oral hygiene instruction and oral health resources
- ◆ Dietary advice
- ◆ Safe working practice

#### **Evidence Requirements**

Candidates will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills by showing that they can:

- ◆ Describe the aetiology and progression of diseases of the oral cavity to patients
- ◆ Explain to patients the ways in which general health can affect oral health
- ◆ Explain to patients the effect that social, cultural and environmental factors have on oral health
- ◆ Identify and evaluate relevant visual aids
- ◆ Explain to patients the significance of diet and its role in relation to oral health
- ◆ Demonstrate safe working practice when providing oral health education

#### **Assessment Guidelines**

This Outcome could be assessed by observation of the candidate providing oral health advice (under the prescription of the dentist) to a range of patients to include an adult, a child, a young person. The 10 patients used for the case studies/log sheets (of actual patients) in Outcome 1 could be used for this.

## Higher National Unit specification: support notes

### Unit title: Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

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 60 hours.

### Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is intended for candidates who wish to enhance their knowledge and understanding and practical skills to allow them to facilitate oral health provision in the dental practice.

The scope for evidence requirements should include advice and guidance given on the benefits of fluoride, the use of fissure sealants, dietary advice and oral hygiene aids.

Outcome 1 allows candidates to look at their role during an oral health assessment; it covers the first stage of assessing the patient's oral health by collecting and updating the patient's history. By asking relevant questions, the candidate will be able to gain information about the patient's dental, medical and social history. This information can be used to identify any problems or concerns the patient may have. The patient's personal details (e.g. gender and age) the dental history (e.g. previous treatment) social history (e.g. smoking status, alcohol intake) and medical history (e.g. current medication and conditions) should be recorded. Client confidentiality in relation to patient details should be observed. The candidate should be able to communicate this data to the dentists and any other dental professionals as appropriate.

Outcome 2 will focus on the legislation relating to the protection of patient data to safeguard patient confidentiality. Candidates are encouraged to use NHSS and other relevant websites. They should be aware of the following acts and their relation to oral health assessment and oral health education.

- ◆ GDPR and the Data Protection Act
- ◆ Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- ◆ Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002
- ◆ Access to Medical Reports Act 1998
- ◆ Electronic Communications Act 2000
- ◆ Access to Health Records Act 1990
- ◆ Relevant emerging legislation
- ◆ GDC Standards for Dental Professionals/Scope of Practice
- ◆ Legal and ethical considerations
- ◆ Relevant current guidance

Outcome 3 is intended to allow candidates to give oral health advice to patients under the prescription of the dentist. The data from the case studies/log sheets used in Outcome 1 should be used to carry out a needs assessment and plan the resources that the candidate will use. The provision of the advice should be relevant to the patient. The use of simulation is not permitted.

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

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

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

This Unit can be delivered as part of a group award or as a stand alone Unit. It is important to contextualise the content to make it as relevant as possible to the candidates' needs. A range of techniques can be employed for delivery including group discussions and role play where appropriate.

Examples provided in class could be in the form of fictional or real life scenarios/case studies.

**Outcome 1** — Candidates should produce a report of approximately 2500 words (or equivalent) detailing the content and processes of an oral health assessment whilst also explaining the role of the dental nurse. When the information collected from the patients is recorded it should only show their age and gender to maintain patient confidentiality. Permission must be obtained to allow the findings to be used for the case studies. Candidates should complete 10 case studies including at least one patient from the specified list of an adult, a child, a young person. The same patients from these case studies/ log sheets may also be used in Outcome 3. Sample Log sheets to record the patient information can be downloaded at [www.sdcep.org.uk](http://www.sdcep.org.uk)

**Outcome 2** — A report of approximately 2500 words (or equivalent) should describe in detail the regulations, guidelines and health and safety requirements and how they relate to oral health assessment and oral Health Education.

**Outcome 3** — The candidate should be observed whilst providing oral health education and/or advice to each of the 10 patients used in Outcome 1. Candidates should provide oral health advice under the prescription of the dentist to a range of patients to include an adult, a child, a young person. The scope for the evidence requirements should include advice and guidance given on the benefits of fluoride, the use of fissure sealants, dietary advice and oral hygiene aids and attrition, abrasion, erosion, dental caries, denture care. It would be recommended that every case study be different.

Tutors could use an observation checklist and supplementary questioning to assess this Outcome.

### Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Core Skill(s) of *Communication* SCQF Level 6, *Working with Others* SCQF Level 6 and *Problem Solving* SCQF Level 5 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

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

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

### Open learning

Although this Unit could be delivered by distance learning, it would require a considerable degree of planning by the centre to ensure the sufficiency and authenticity of the candidate evidence. The reports and case study/log sheets in Outcomes 1 and 2 would need to be held in a portfolio (or electronic portfolio) and sent to the assessor. Arrangements would have to be made to ensure that the practical activity in Outcome 3 is supervised by a responsible person and signed by the supervising dentist.

### Opportunities for the use of e-assessment

E-assessment may be appropriate for some assessments in this Unit. By e-assessment we mean assessment which is supported by Information and Communication Technology (ICT), such as e-testing or the use of e-portfolios or e-checklists. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all candidate evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. Further advice is available in *SQA Guidelines on Online Assessment for Further Education (AA1641, March 2003)*, *SQA Guidelines on e-assessment for Schools (BD2625, June 2005)*.

### Disabled candidates and/or those with additional support needs

The additional support needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments, or considering whether any reasonable adjustments may be required. Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).



## History of changes to Unit

| Version | Description of change   | Date     |
|---------|---|----------|
| 02      | Correction of typo, broadening of the acceptable scope of advice, reduction in specified case studies to remove over-assessment | 01/03/23 |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |
|         |   |          |

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2011

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part for educational purposes provided that no profit is derived from reproduction and that, if reproduced in part, the source is acknowledged.

Additional copies of this Unit specification can be purchased from the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Please contact the Business Development and Customer Support team, telephone 0303 333 0330.

## General information for candidates

### **Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement

This Unit is designed to provide you with the knowledge and skills you require to provide oral health care education and/or advice to patients (under the prescription of the dentist)

You will be asked to explain the role of the dental nurse during the oral health assessment and explain the relevant regulations, guidelines and health and safety issues.

You will also be observed offering oral health education or advice to a range of patients within the dental practice.

To undertake this Unit, you should be registered with the General Dental Council as a dental care professional and be working within a dental environment.

There will also be opportunities throughout the assessment of this Unit to develop your core skills in *Communication*, *Working with Others* and *Problem Solving*.