



Higher National Unit specification: general information

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

Unit code: H0YH 35

Superclass: SN

Publication date: March 2012

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 01

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to provide candidates with knowledge and understanding of the assessment, care and monitoring of patients to an advanced standard. The Unit is suitable for candidates seeking employment in veterinary nursing, animal care or similar professions.

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

- 1 Explain the application of the nursing process.
- 2 Explain the assessment and monitoring of patients.
- 3 Describe the advanced nursing interventions and home care required for medical and surgical patients.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills

It is recommended that candidates should have completed the SCQF level 7 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Essential Nursing Skills* before starting this Unit. It is also recommended that candidates should be in the process of completing, or have already completed, the SCQF level 8 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Small Animal Health Conditions*.

Credit points and level

2 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (16 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)

Core Skills

There are opportunities to develop the Critical Thinking component of *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6 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.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

Unit code: H0YH 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 application of the nursing process.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ The role of the veterinary nurse in specialised areas of nursing.
- ◆ Classification of health conditions.
- ◆ Interpretation and adaption of models.
- ◆ Care planning.
- ◆ Record keeping and reporting.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the role of the veterinary nurse in two specialised areas of nursing
- ◆ classify five patients with a variety of conditions
- ◆ explain the nursing process for one acute and one chronic patient
- ◆ explain the application of nursing models, care plans and record keeping for one acute and one chronic patient.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

Outcome 2

Explain the assessment and monitoring of patients.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Assessment and monitoring techniques
 - vital signs
 - blood pressure
 - ECG
 - neurological function
- ◆ Assessment and triage of acute and emergency cases
- ◆ Identification of patients requiring isolation
 - suspected or diagnosed infected patients
 - immunosuppressed patients
 - patients with compromised immunity
- ◆ Assessment of the chronic patient
- ◆ Identification of actual and potential problems in patients
- ◆ Identification of nursing needs of patients
 - cardiovascular function
 - respiratory function
 - nutrition
 - fluid balance
 - mobility
 - hygiene
 - maintaining body temperature
 - pain and stress
 - psychological needs
- ◆ Integration of response to abnormal results from diagnostic tests into nursing plan.

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ compare the assessment requirements of one acute and one chronically ill patient
- ◆ explain why two types of patient require isolation
- ◆ identify the nursing needs of one acute and one chronically ill patient
- ◆ explain the techniques that may be selected to monitor the progress of one acute and one chronically ill patient.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

Outcome 3

Describe the advanced nursing interventions and home care required for medical and surgical patients.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Accommodation requirements for patients
- ◆ Application of advanced nursing interventions
 - respiratory therapy
 - feeding and assisted feeding – enteral and parenteral
 - elimination
 - urinary catheter management and care
 - enemata
 - drug administration including cytotoxic treatment
 - mobility, exercise and physiotherapy
 - complementary therapies
 - resuscitation and stabilisation procedures
 - intravenous catheterisation
 - pain relief and alleviation of stress
 - species specific requirements
- ◆ Fluid therapy
 - assessment of fluid requirements
 - calculating quantities and rates of fluid replacement
 - administration of crystalloid and colloid solutions
 - monitoring fluid replacement
- ◆ Blood and blood product collection and administration
- ◆ Wound healing and care
 - healing process
 - factors that impede healing
 - management of wounds
 - dressing materials
 - surgical wounds
- ◆ Barrier nursing
- ◆ Identification of complications and appropriate responses.
- ◆ Home Care
 - discharge
 - care plan
 - client concordance
 - follow up nursing clinics

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

Evidence Requirements

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

- ◆ describe the application of three specialist nursing techniques in three different animal species
- ◆ describe the administration of fluid to one patient
- ◆ describe the administration of blood to one patient
- ◆ describe wound healing and care of one patient
- ◆ describe the barrier nursing, accommodation and care requirements of one isolated patient
- ◆ describe two complications that may result in each of the three patients above, and describe appropriate responses.
- ◆ describe appropriate discharge and home care plan for two different patient species with long term medical illnesses
- ◆ describe an appropriate discharge and home care regime for one patient following an abdominal or orthopaedic procedure

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

- ◆ demonstrate preparation of the equipment for intravenous catheterisation and the administration of a crystalloid solution.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

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

Although this Unit may be taken by candidates wishing to develop and/or enhance their skills, it is primarily intended for candidates who are studying towards the HND in Veterinary Nursing and the teaching and learning should be delivered in this context.

The Unit is specifically designed to introduce veterinary nursing students or other interested parties to advanced skills for the nursing of small animal patients within a veterinary practice.

Additional information relating to each Outcome is given below.

- 1 The candidates will be introduced to the classification of health conditions, in order to be aware of the priorities for care. Although candidates should have a good awareness of the ways in which conditions affect patients, it must be remembered that nursing care revolves around meeting a patient's needs. Veterinary nursing students are expected to be aware of the role of the veterinary nurse in providing specialised care, particularly those in specialist fields, and how this role interacts with the veterinarian. Care planning theory and nursing models should include any up to date theories and models developed relevant to veterinary nursing. Candidates should at this stage be able to formulate nursing care plans for their patients, communicate with the rest of the care team and be able to review and respond effectively to any changes.
- 2 This Outcome is designed to provide the candidates with the knowledge to assess acute patients and those with complex needs, using advanced skills and technologies. This information would then be used to formulate their nursing plan, priorities of care, as well as being the basis for monitoring.

Candidates should, on completion of the Unit, be able to accurately identify the needs of their patients. They should be able to deal with a variety of species, having the knowledge of the way in which different species respond to disease, and with a variety of health conditions.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

- 3 Candidates should understand how to select appropriate accommodation for patients with complex medical or surgical needs, and have a thorough knowledge of advanced nursing techniques for a range of species, including cats, dogs and exotics. Home care should take account of the patient's condition and the circumstances within the owner's home. Candidates should be aware of the importance of client concordance when planning home care regimes and consider the requirements for effective discharge and handover of the patient to the owner. Candidates should have the knowledge to enable them to carry out all the nursing interventions listed in the Unit, with reference to the veterinary surgeon. Candidates should also understand the complications that may arise and be able to respond appropriately. This Unit should give the basis for the nursing skills required of a qualified veterinary nurse.

Guidance on the delivery of this Unit

Whilst this Unit may be delivered on a standalone basis, it has been designed as part of the HND in Veterinary Nursing. It is recommended that candidates are familiar with basic nursing skills, and completion of the SCQF level 7 Unit Veterinary Nursing: Essential Nursing Skills prior to this Unit is essential. The completion of the SCQF level 8 Unit Veterinary Nursing: Small Animal Health Conditions is also essential.

Delivery could involve classroom-based lectures and demonstrations using simulation models. It is expected that time is spent working in a veterinary practice to apply these skills and gain knowledge and experience in responding to changes in nursing needs. Scenarios could be used to provide a learning tool for formulating care plans. Practical training, both in a college and in the veterinary practice, should be used extensively to prepare for both competent working and as preparation for Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations). Learning could also be facilitated with the use of DVDs and CD-ROMs. Candidates should have a good underpinning knowledge of nursing techniques to allow effective application of those techniques.

Guidance on the assessment of this Unit

Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 could be assessed using a written paper consisting of structured questions. Two patient cases could be used to provide the setting for the acute and chronic patient. The candidate would then be expected to answer questions related to all Outcomes based on these cases.

The practical element of Outcome 3 could be assessed in a simulated environment in the style of the RCVS OSCEs. It is expected that an observation checklist would be used to provide evidence of performance evidence.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

Assessment Guidelines

Outcome 1

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 2 and 3, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

Outcome 2

The assessment of this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 1 and 3, details of which are given under Outcome 3.

Outcome 3

The assessment of knowledge for this Outcome can be combined with Outcomes 1 and 2 and could take the form of a closed-book test consisting of structured questions undertaken in controlled conditions, lasting two and a half hours.

Performance evidence for preparing equipment for intravenous catheterisation and crystalloid fluid administration could be generated in supervised conditions during practical sessions. Observation checklists should be used to record performance and should be retained for authentication purposes.

Online and Distance Learning

If this Unit is delivered by open or distance learning methods, additional resources will be required for candidate support, assessment and quality assurance. For further information and advice, please refer to the SQA guide: Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning (www.sqa.org.uk).

Opportunities for developing Core Skills

There may be opportunities to develop the Critical Thinking component of Problem Solving at SCQF level 6 in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skills components.

All three Outcomes of this Unit require candidates to be able to identify factors involved in complex nursing situations, to assess the relevance of the factors and to develop an approach to deal with the situations.

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

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date

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General information for candidates

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

This Unit is designed to provide you with knowledge of the process used to nurse veterinary patients with complex needs, the ability to assess and plan care for these patients and knowledge and skills required to provide specialist nursing to patients with complex needs.

It would be beneficial for you to have successfully achieved the SCQF level 7 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Essential Nursing Skills* and the SCQF level 8 Unit *Veterinary Nursing: Small Animal Health Conditions* before starting this Unit. This Unit is ideally placed within the HND Veterinary Nursing framework and is relevant for those who work in the veterinary or allied industries.

This double credit Unit comprises three Outcomes:

Outcome 1

This Outcome will introduce you to the classification of health conditions, in order to be aware of the priorities for care. You are expected to be aware of the role of the veterinary nurse in providing specialised care, particularly those in specialist fields, and how this role interacts with the veterinarian. You will also cover care planning theory and nursing models, and will be able to formulate nursing care plans for your patients, communicate with the rest of the care team and be able to review and respond effectively to any changes.

Outcome 2

This Outcome is designed to provide you with the knowledge to assess acute patients and those with complex needs, using advanced skills and technologies. This information would be then used to formulate nursing plans, priorities of care, as well as being the basis for monitoring.

You should, on completion of the Unit, be able to accurately identify the needs of your patients. You should be able to deal with a variety of species, having the knowledge of the ways in which different species respond to disease, and with a variety of health conditions.

Outcome 3

After completing this Outcome you should understand how to select appropriate accommodation for patients with complex needs and have a thorough knowledge of advanced nursing techniques. You will have the knowledge to enable you to carry out all the nursing interventions listed in the Unit, with reference to the veterinary surgeon. You will also be able to understand the complications that may arise and be able to respond appropriately. This Unit should give the basis for the nursing skills required of a qualified veterinary nurse.

In order to complete this Unit successfully you will be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance. Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 could be assessed using a written paper consisting of structured questions. Two patient cases could be used to provide the setting for the acute and chronic patient. You would then be expected to answer questions related to all Outcomes based on these cases.

General information for candidates (cont)

Unit title: Veterinary Nursing: Advanced Nursing Skills

The practical element of Outcome 3 could be assessed in a simulated environment in the style of the RCVS OSCEs. It is expected that an observation checklist would be used to provide evidence of performance evidence.