



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health (SCQF level 8)

**Unit code:** H5WT 35

**Superclass:** PF

**Publication date:** March 2019

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 03 (October 2021)

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable registered dental nurses to become effective in delivering oral health interventions. The Unit will explore the theoretical and practical aspects of understanding and delivering health and oral health promotion information and supporting behaviour change. Candidates will also examine the role of dental public health, the broader sociological, behavioural, environmental and economic factors that affect oral health and the evidenced based research and guidance that can be used to inform oral health improvement interventions.

### Outcomes

On successful completion of the Unit the learner will be able to:

- 1 Explain the stages required in the planning and development of health promotion.
- 2 Analyse the key factors that affect oral health and the role of dental public health in delivering local and national oral health initiatives.
- 3 Apply relevant theories and models to support and effect behaviour change through the implementation and evaluation of an oral health intervention.

### Credit points and level

1 Higher National Unit credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

## Higher National Unit specification: General information (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health (SCQF level 8)

### Recommended entry to the Unit

Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre. Candidates should be registered with the General Dental Council. It is strongly recommended that this Unit be undertaken in conjunction with *Dental Nursing: Oral Health Education* to ensure candidates gain the depth and breadth of knowledge required to effectively deliver oral health interventions. Candidates must also be disclosed under the PVG scheme (2011) standard or enhanced.

### Core Skills

Opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills are highlighted in the Support Notes for this Unit specification.

There is no automatic certification of Core Skills or Core Skill components in this Unit.

### 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 mandatory within the PDA in Oral Health Improvement and is also contained within the HND in Dental Nursing. This Unit can also be delivered as a stand-alone Unit, perhaps for the purposes of continued professional development.

Guidance on the content for the delivery of the Knowledge and Skills is provided for each of the Unit's Outcome.

### Equality and inclusion

This Unit specification has been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements).

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

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Acceptable performance in this Unit will be the satisfactory achievement of the standards set out in this part of the Unit specification. All sections of the statement of standards are mandatory and cannot be altered without reference to SQA.

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. Learners 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 stages required in the planning and development of health promotion.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Definitions of Health and Oral Health
- ◆ Models of Health Promotion
- ◆ Stages in Health Improvement planning

### Outcome 2

Analyse the key factors that affect oral health and the role of dental public health in delivering local and national oral health initiatives.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Health inequalities
- ◆ Factors affecting oral health
- ◆ Influences on oral health
- ◆ Social determinants of health
- ◆ Social determinants of health model
- ◆ Policies and initiatives relating to health inequalities
- ◆ The role of Dental Public Health

### Outcome 3

Apply relevant theories and models to support and effect behaviour change through the implementation and evaluation of an oral health intervention.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Understanding and supporting behaviour Change
- ◆ Oral health initiatives
- ◆ Relevant research and evidence based guidance
- ◆ Delivering health information
- ◆ Reflective practice

## Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

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### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

Learners will need to provide evidence to demonstrate their Knowledge and/or Skills across all Outcomes by showing that they can:

#### Outcome 1

Explain the stages required in the planning and development of health promotion.

#### Evidence Requirements

- ◆ Define 'health' and 'oral health'.
- ◆ Describe health education, health promotion and prevention through the use of relevant models.
- ◆ Explain the stages required within Health Improvement Planning.

#### Outcome 2

Analyse the key factors that affect oral health and the role of Dental Public Health in delivering local and national oral health initiatives.

#### Evidence Requirements

- ◆ Explain how social, behaviour, cultural, environmental and economic factors affect oral health.
- ◆ Describe the role of Dental Public Health in improving oral health and reducing health inequalities.
- ◆ Evaluate the effectiveness of a minimum of 1 previous and 1 current local or national initiative or policy in contributing to the improvement of oral health and reducing health inequalities.

#### Outcome 3

Apply relevant theories and models to support and effect behaviour change through the implementation and evaluation of an oral health intervention.

#### Evidence Requirements

- ◆ Explain the stages of behaviour change as described by Prochaska and DiClemente, 1986.
- ◆ Support an individual through the process of behavioural change through practical implementation of the stages of behaviour change model (Prochaska and DiClemente, 1986).
- ◆ Use a range and sources of available information, research and evidence based guidance relevant, to inform professional practice and the oral health advice provided to patients.
- ◆ Evaluate and reflect on the Outcome of the intervention.



## Higher National Unit Support Notes

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health (SCQF level 8)

Unit Support Notes are offered as guidance and 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 designed to enable registered dental nurses to become effective in delivering oral health interventions. The Unit will explore the theoretical and practical aspects of understanding and delivering health and oral health promotion information and supporting behaviour change. Candidates will also examine the role of dental public health, the broader sociological, behavioural, environmental and economic factors that affect oral health and the evidenced based research and guidance that can be used to inform oral health improvement interventions. Upon completion candidates should be able to effectively plan oral health interventions and support individuals through the use of evidence based guidance and theoretical frameworks as they change habits and behaviour towards improving oral health.

Successful completion of this Unit may give the candidate the opportunity to extend their clinical duties within their professional scope of practice, as defined by the General Dental Council (GDC) and contribute to their continued professional development.

#### Outcome 1

The focus of Outcome 1 is on the definitions of Health and Oral Health, the relevant models of health promotion and the key stages in health improvement planning. Teaching should include:

- ◆ Definitions of health and oral health, including:
  - Individual, society, national and international definitions: eg WHO definitions.
- ◆ Models of health promotion:
  - Tannahill Model of Health Promotion: health education, health promotion and prevention
- ◆ Stages in Health Improvement Planning
  - Identification of needs
  - Identification of aims, objectives and Outcomes
  - Planning, including evidence based information, resources, methods, implementation and evaluation

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health (SCQF level 8)

**Outcome 2** has a theoretical focus in relation to the role of dental public health in improving oral health and reducing health inequalities. Teaching for this Outcome should include the following:

- ◆ Health Inequalities
- ◆ Factors affecting oral health
- ◆ Influences on oral health:
  - Primary and secondary socialisation
  - Behaviour
  - Cultural, environmental and economic factors
- ◆ Social Determinants of Health:
  - Social gradient,
  - Stress
  - Early life
  - Social exclusion
  - Work
  - Unemployment
  - Social support
  - Addiction
  - Food
  - Transport (WHO 2003)
- ◆ Social Determinants of Health Model:
  - Dahlgren and Whitehead (1991)
- ◆ Policies and initiatives relating to Health Inequalities,
- ◆ The role of Dental Public Health
- ◆ Government, National and Local Strategies and Initiatives, eg:
  - An Action Plan for Improving Oral Health and Modernising NHS Dental Services in Scotland
  - Childsmile
  - Caring for smiles
  - Smiles for Life
  - Working examples: water fluoridation, U.S. Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Access to dental services
  - Epidemiology: measures of oral health: Basic Periodontal Examination (BPE), Decayed/Missing/Filled Teeth (DMFT), National Dental Inspection Programme (NDIP)
  - Implementation and partnership working

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health (SCQF level 8)

**Outcome 3** examines the preferred model for effecting behaviour change and teaching should therefore include the following:

- ◆ The Stages of Change Model as described by Prochaska and DiClemente, 1986.

The scope for the requirement of interventions should be discussed, eg Smoking, Drug and/or Alcohol use or Diet and Nutrition.

Outcome 3 also has a theoretical focus in relation to relevant research and evidence based guidance that can be used to inform professional practice in delivering oral health education.

Teaching for this Outcome should cover:

- ◆ Evidence Based Guidance and reports
- ◆ Scottish Government website
- ◆ Scottish Dental Practice Based Research Network (SDECP)
- ◆ Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN)
- ◆ National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidelines

Candidates should be encouraged to evaluate the available information to ensure it is fit for the intended purpose.

The importance of evaluation and reflection to improve own practice should be highlighted to candidates and covered in the teaching of this Outcome.

### Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

Delivery should be candidate-centred and take account of actual workplace practice to allow candidates to demonstrate the required skills and knowledge for this Unit. As it involves a significant amount of experiential learning, candidates must be able to provide evidence drawn from their practice to allow them sufficient opportunity to meet the requirements of the Unit. Candidates will also be required to reflect on their performance and experiences in order to continually improve their professional knowledge in oral health improvement and practice as an oral health educator.

It is envisaged that the delivery and facilitation of this Unit could be through a blended approach using face to face lectures, mediated discussion, personal reflection, self-directed learning and reading of recommended texts.

The preferred order of teaching is as set out in the Unit, and Outcome 3 will allow the candidate to integrate and demonstrate the knowledge gained from Outcomes 1 and 2. Outcomes 1 and 3 have a practical focus as it will develop the candidate's ability to effectively plan, deliver and evaluate an oral health improvement intervention. This could be delivered within the practice or community setting.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

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### Guidance on approaches to assessment of this Unit

Evidence can be generated using different types of assessment. The following are suggestions only. There may be other methods that would be more suitable to learners.

Centres are reminded that prior verification of centre-devised assessments would help to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them to develop different skills that should be transferable to work or further and higher education.

The assessment of Outcomes 1 and 3 could be integrated and an appropriate instrument of assessment would be the production of a behavioural change case study relating to an oral health improvement intervention. The scope for the case study can be related to smoking, drug and alcohol use or nutrition. The candidate would be required to coach and support an individual through the process of behaviour change. This could be delivered within the practice or community setting. The candidate could present their case study to their peers and course tutor for feedback which then may be utilised within the evaluation and reflection of their work. In addition the candidate could describe how they use relevant research and evidence based guidance to inform their professional practice in delivering oral health promotion and supporting behaviour change. The case study must demonstrate the Evidence Requirements of Outcome 1 and 3.

Outcomes 2 could be assessed through the production of a report explaining the factors that affect oral health and the role of dental public health in improving oral health and reducing health inequalities. The report must cover the Evidence Requirements of Outcome 2.

### Opportunities for 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 social software. Centres which wish to use e-assessment must ensure that the national standard is applied to all learner evidence and that conditions of assessment as specified in the Evidence Requirements are met, regardless of the mode of gathering evidence. The most up-to-date guidance on the use of e-assessment to support SQA's qualifications is available at [www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment](http://www.sqa.org.uk/e-assessment).

### Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

Candidates will have opportunities throughout this Unit to develop aspects of their Core Skills in *Communication* at SCQF level 6, *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6, *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 5 and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at SCQF level 5.

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
03	<b>Unit Specification Update:</b> Removal of out-of-date references	21/10/21
02	<b>Unit Specification Update:</b> Removed reference to unit being within Optional units in the Context for delivery section.	05/03/19

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## General information for learners

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health (SCQF level 8)

This section will help you decide whether this is the Unit for you by explaining what the Unit is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the Unit and opportunities for further learning and employment.

Although access to the Unit is at the discretion of the delivering centre, you should be registered with the General Dental Council and be disclosed under the PVG scheme (2011) standard or enhanced.

This Unit is designed to enable you to become effective in delivering oral health interventions. The Unit will explore the theoretical and practical aspects of understanding and delivering health and oral health promotion information and supporting behaviour change. You will also examine the role of dental public health, the broader sociological, behavioural, environmental and economic factors that affect oral health and the evidenced based research and guidance that can be used to inform oral health improvement interventions.

On successful completion of the Unit you will be able to:

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- 2 Analyse the key factors that affect oral health and the role of dental public health in delivering local and national oral health initiatives.
- 3 Apply relevant theories and models to support and effect behaviour change through the implementation and evaluation of an oral health intervention.

Throughout the Unit, you may also have the opportunity to develop your Core Skills in *Communication, Problem Solving, Working with Others* and *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*.