



## Higher National Unit specification

### General information

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

**Unit code:** H76D 35

**Superclass:** PF

**Publication date:** March 2016

**Source:** Scottish Qualifications Authority

**Version:** 02

### Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to enable registered dental nurses to effectively support clinicians in the provision of special care dentistry. Candidates will explore the additional support and resources required to enable them to provide appropriate care within specialised services and in a multi-disciplinary environment. This Unit will prepare the dental nurse to apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to patient care to ensure a positive patient experience.

### Outcomes

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

- 1 Plan the requirements for working with dental patients who require additional support.
- 2 Support clinical staff in the provision of appropriate oral health care for patients.
- 3 Provide oral health advice to special care patients and/or carers.
- 4 Evaluate own practice to inform professional development in supporting special care dentistry.

### Credit points and level

1.5 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 8: (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

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

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (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 (GDC) and working in clinical settings that provide special care dentistry. It would be beneficial if candidates had completed Higher National Unit *Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies of Special Care Provision*. Centres should consider whether candidates undertaking this Unit need to be disclosed under the PVG scheme (2011) standard or enhanced. This may depend on the degree of patient contact.

### 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 contained within the PDA in Dental Nursing: Supporting Special Care Provision and is also an optional Unit in the framework of the HND in Dental Nursing.

The candidate should work in a clinical setting that provides special care to patients who are unable to receive routine dental treatment due to medical conditions and disabilities. These settings will range from clinical environments to secure accommodation and will require the dental nurse to demonstrate a level of autonomy in the provision of this treatment. All skills will be applied in line with the General Dental Council Scope of Practice.

### 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 candidates 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. 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

Plan the requirements for working with dental patients who require additional support.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Role and responsibilities of the dental nurse working in special care settings
- ◆ Risk Assessment
- ◆ Moving and handling for the special care patient
- ◆ Transport for the special care patient
- ◆ Domiciliary care
- ◆ Appropriate resources
- ◆ Decontamination and infection control

### Outcome 2

Support clinical staff in the provision of appropriate oral health care for patients.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Resources and equipment required in the provision of dental treatment for a special care patient
- ◆ Arrangement of care in available environments — clinical/nonclinical
- ◆ Communication with patient and/or carer/guardian
- ◆ Multi-disciplinary care teams for specific patient groups
- ◆ Organisation of administration to allow treatment provision

### Outcome 3

Provide oral health advice to special care patients and/or carers.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Methods of providing oral health messages to the patient and/or carer
- ◆ Oral health aids for patient use
- ◆ Oral health aids for those providing daily care for patient
- ◆ Referral service to appropriate specialised oral health teams
- ◆ Oral health care service provision for Priority Groups

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

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

### Outcome 4

Evaluate own practice to inform professional development in supporting special care dentistry.

#### Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Importance of reflection to personal self-development
- ◆ Impact of own practice on special care patients
- ◆ Evaluation of practice in delivery of care
- ◆ Identification of areas of strength and areas requiring further development in relation to own practice in working with patients/carers requiring special care

#### Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

##### Outcome 1

Plan the requirements for working with dental patients who require additional support

- ◆ Explain the range of special care needs the dental nurse will require to plan for
- ◆ Specify the role and responsibilities of the dental nurse working with special care patients.
- ◆ Describe arrangement of care in available environments — clinical/nonclinical.
- ◆ Explain appropriate resources available for different patient needs.
- ◆ Describe a range of multi-disciplinary care teams appropriate to specific patient groups.
- ◆ Explain relevant administration requirements to allow treatment provision for special care patients.

##### Outcome 2

Support clinical staff in the provision of appropriate oral health care for patients.

- ◆ Complete a risk assessment for 10 different special care patients.
- ◆ Execute a plan of transportation for a special care patient.
- ◆ Perform moving and handling techniques for a special care patient.
- ◆ Organise and support the clinician within a domiciliary setting.
- ◆ Implement adequate decontamination and infection control protocols.
- ◆ Ensure specialist dental equipment required to provide treatment is available.
- ◆ Ensure supplementary equipment required to assist in care provision is available.
- ◆ Communicate effectively with patients and/or their carer/guardian.

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

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

### Outcome 3

Provide oral health advice to special care patients and/or carers.

- ◆ Communicate effectively, using different methods, with a range of patients with different needs and where necessary with their carer/guardian.
- ◆ Demonstrate effective use of oral health/hygiene aids for the use of special care patients.
- ◆ Demonstrate effective use of oral health/hygiene aids for the use of carers or guardians.
- ◆ Create a referral service to oral health teams.
- ◆ Explain the Oral health care service provision for Priority Groups

### Outcome 4

Evaluate own practice to inform professional development in supporting special care dentistry.

- ◆ Explain the importance of reflection to personal self-development.
- ◆ Reflect on and evaluate the impact of own practice in contributing to the care of patients who require special care.
- ◆ Plan professional development needs in order to maintain own knowledge, skills and practice in the context of special care dentistry.



## Higher National Unit Support Notes

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (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 60 hours.

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

This Unit is designed to enable dental nurses to effectively contribute to the care of dental patients who require additional support. The Unit exemplifies the requirements of the practical aspects of special care dentistry in order to provide a positive patient experience. Candidates will use research and evidence based guidance in ensuring that resources/equipment and care pathway is the most appropriate to the additional needs of the patient.

On completion of this Unit candidates will have the necessary knowledge and skills to support the wider dental/health care team in the delivery of dental care to special care patients. Candidates will have developed skills necessary to plan care for special care patients in a range of environments, including those out with the clinical environment, and support the patient through the procedures.

Successful completion of this Unit will allow the candidate to work as part of a team that requires skills to support patients in a Special Care environment. The candidate will have the opportunity to extend their role within the GDC Scope of Practice and work in multi-disciplinary teams.

#### Outcome 1

This Outcome will focus on identifying the additional requirements that are necessary to provide dental care to patients who are unable to receive routine dental care due to medical conditions or disability. The Outcome will incorporate the organisation of appropriate patient care and the practical skills required in all aspects of the role of special care dental nurse.

Teaching should include:

- ◆ Insight into the role and responsibility of the special care dental nurse
- ◆ Undertaking a risk assessment
- ◆ Completion of recognised manual handling training
- ◆ Guidance and accessing transportation for patients
- ◆ Arranging and delivery of dental care out with the clinical environment:
  - Hospital
  - Care homes
  - Respite centres
  - Supported accommodation
  - Secure accommodation — Prison, Remand Centres

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

- ◆ Preparing for treatment — Equipment and Resources:
  - Identifying need for patient treatment in a range of locations
- ◆ Decontamination and Infection Control in providing dental care in:
  - Clinical environment
  - Hospital
  - Care homes
  - Respite centres
  - Supported accommodation
  - Secure accommodation, Prison, Remand Centres

### Outcome 2

This will prepare the candidate to work in environments that require extended skills in delivering care to patients who are unable to undertake routine dental care. The Unit will focus on the practical aspects of the role in a variety of locations and in circumstances working with multi-disciplinary teams.

Teaching should include:

- ◆ Researching the ranges of dental/medical equipment require to provide treatment in different environments:
  - Mouth props
  - Portable aspiration
  - Domiciliary care kits
- ◆ Researching the supplementary equipment available for use within the dental environment:
  - Hoists/Lifts
  - Lifting and handling aids
  - Communication aids — augmented and alternative communication resources
  - Manual handling techniques using props
- ◆ Planning care within environments out with the dental environment:
  - Hospital theatre — booking systems, referral, healthcare teams
  - Adapted dental Units — available equipment relevant to treatment
  - Home environment — equipment required, arrangements for entry, safety
  - Secure/supported environments — available equipment relevant to treatment, safety and security
  - Communication skills — use of communication with patients/carers/guardian in ensuring understanding, consent and patient engagement
  - Implementing referral pathways, identifying health and social care teams and their contribution to the provision of patients oral health care
  - Administrative areas of treating the special care patients — obtaining consent, payments, pre and post-operative advice

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

### Outcome 3

This Outcome requires the candidate to use planning skills in providing oral health care to influence the patient/carer/guardian in maintaining good oral health techniques for a range of patients. This will incorporate the use of theory and the ability to identify an approach that demonstrates positive patient care.

Teaching should include:

- ◆ Oral health aids — full range including basic aids to specialist aids for patients with manual dexterity challenges and how these would be used
- ◆ Oral health aids — full range including basic aids to specialist aids that will be used by parent/carer/guardian in providing oral health care for patients
- ◆ Referral pathways — how, when and who to refer to
- ◆ National Initiatives — how to access: information on Priority Groups
  - The Scottish Government's National Oral Health Improvement Strategy for Priority Groups: frail older people, people with special care needs and those who are homeless (2012)
  - Oral Health Improvement teams

### Outcome 4

This Outcome will ask the candidate to use reflection to improve their practice and enhance patient care. Incorporation of evaluation and or need for audit will require the candidate to use their reflection in a constructive manner.

Teaching should include:

- ◆ What is reflection
- ◆ How and when to reflect
- ◆ The benefits of reflection to self-development and patient care
- ◆ Evaluation
  - What is evaluation
  - Ways to use evaluation
- ◆ How to expand on strengths and how to seek training for areas of improvement

## Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

Delivery of this Unit will be a combination of theory and practical, with the emphasis on the practical aspects. The Unit should be delivered in a logical order; Outcome 1 & 2 could be delivered together followed by Outcome 3. Outcome 4 could be introduced at the commencement of the learning to allow the candidate to engage in reflective practice from the beginning.

A range of resources will be required to allow the candidate to develop skills in using specialist equipment in a learning environment. The teaching sessions could be delivered using group work, practical tasks, peer discussion and scenario based sessions. Visits to clinics with adaptations to environment allowing the candidate to familiarise themselves with



equipment is recommended. Candidates will be expected to adopt a proactive and participative approach to learning.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

### 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 candidates.

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

Assessment of this Unit should focus on applying theory and knowledge and demonstrating practical skills. A holistic approach to assessment of Outcomes 1, 2 and 3 allows the candidate to demonstrate their competence and evidence their contribution to patient care.

The recommended form of assessment for Outcomes 1–3 would be completion of a range of tasks designed to cover the Evidence Requirements and an extended case study.

Outcome 4 could be in the form of a reflective diary that should be maintained throughout the course.

Evidence should cover the following (in the form of a log book or portfolio):

- ◆ Patient information (excluding identifiable information)
- ◆ Consent
- ◆ Requirement for Special Care Dentistry
- ◆ Contra-indications to care
- ◆ Treatment Plan/Pathway
- ◆ Referral Information
- ◆ Additional Support requirements (this may include sedation)
- ◆ Environment
- ◆ Dental nurse contribution to care
- ◆ Other health/social care teams involved
- ◆ Comments

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

The evidence listed above should be gathered from practice and cover:

- ◆ Adult/child
- ◆ Environment (clinical/home/supported/secure)
- ◆ Disability classifications
- ◆ Consent

The Case Study should be an extension of competencies covering the areas above, using research, evidence and planning where appropriate:

- ◆ Risk assessments
- ◆ Treatment planning
- ◆ Care pathway
- ◆ List of resources/support equipment with evidence of use and relevance

Within the logbook/portfolio of evidence and case study there should be evidence of special care provided to at least one of each of the following:

- ◆ physically disabled patient
- ◆ patient with mental health issues
- ◆ patient with a learning disability

And two medically compromised patients, from different areas, eg heart problem, cancer.

This will ensure that once the Unit is achieved, the dental nurse is familiar with several areas of special care.

The patient log sheets should be signed off by the supervising clinician.

### Outcome 4

The candidate can signpost their learning by completing a reflective diary throughout the course which will include both positive and negative experiences and their development points. The diary should include an evaluation of a minimum of one learned skill to allow the candidate to evidence their increased awareness and insight into provision of care within a specialist area.

There could be opportunities for holistic assessment of practical skills, eg the safe use of equipment and resources, effective *Communication* skills and organisational skills.

Since the Component of Critical Thinking at SCQF Level 5 is embedded in this Unit, it is strongly recommended that you follow the assessment guidelines given. If you wish to use a different assessment model, you should seek prior verification of the assessment instrument(s) you intend to use to ensure that the Core Skill is still covered.

## Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

**Unit title:** Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (SCQF level 8)

### 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 candidate 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

This Unit has the Problem Solving component Critical Thinking embedded in it. This means that when the candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show they have achieved Critical Thinking at SCQF level 5.

Candidates will have opportunities to develop Core Skills in *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6, *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6, *Information and Communication Technology* at SCQF level 5 and *Communication* at SCQF level 6.

## History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Clarification of guidance documents and updated terminology	08/03/16

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## General information for candidates

### Unit title: Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice (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 must be registered with the General Dental Council as a dental care practitioner and work in a clinical setting that provides special care dentistry. It would be beneficial if you had completed the Unit *Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies of Special Care Provision*.

This Unit is designed to enable you to become effective in delivering oral health support and advice to those patients who are unable to receive routine dental care due to a medical issue or disability. The Unit will incorporate the organisation of appropriate patient care and the practical skills required in all aspects of the role of special care dental nurse. Successful completion of this Unit will allow you to develop specific skills to work effectively as part of a team that supports patients in a special care environment. You may have the opportunity to extend your role within the GDC Scope of Practice and work in multi-disciplinary teams.

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

- ◆ Plan the requirements for working with patients who require additional support.
- ◆ Support clinical staff in the provision of appropriate oral health care for patients.
- ◆ Provide oral health advice to special care patients and/or carers.
- ◆ Evaluate own practice to inform professional development in supporting special care dentistry.

The assessment of this Unit will include completion of log sheets for a range of procedures for patients within different environments (not necessarily clinical). You will be asked to produce case studies of your participation in delivery of care and complete a reflective diary throughout.

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)*.