



Higher National Unit specification

General information

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

Unit code: H8WY 34

Superclass: PP

Publication date: February 2015

Source: Scottish Qualifications Authority

Version: 02

Unit purpose

This Unit is designed to provide the specialist skills and knowledge required to advise women who have suffered a miscarriage or are at risk of miscarriage, on managing their fertility in order to achieve a successful pregnancy.

The Unit is aimed at those who are employed in a paid or voluntary capacity in a role providing advice and guidance on fertility management.

This Unit is mandatory within the Professional Development Award in Providing Advanced Fertility Support at SCQF level 8

Outcomes

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

- 1 Explain the female reproductive system and fertility cycle.
- 2 Interpret and use Fertility Management Charts.
- 3 Plan, Deliver and Evaluate a Fertility Management session.
- 4 Evaluate own contribution to the service.

Credit points and level

1.5 Higher National Unit credits at SCQF level 7: (12 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7)

Higher National Unit Specification: General information (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

Recommended entry to the Unit

Entry to this Unit is at the discretion of the Centre, however it is strongly recommended that learners wishing to undertake this Unit have previously achieved national qualifications in Advice and Guidance and/or Counselling, eg:

- ◆ HN Unit, *Pregnancy Loss and Bereavement, Supporting Clients Using a Range of Media*
- ◆ SVQ Units in Advice and Guidance
- ◆ NC Units in Counselling

Learners should have evidence of supervised hours working within an advice and guidance or counselling setting, preferably with clients who have suffered miscarriage.

Core Skills

Achievement of this Unit gives automatic certification of the following:

Complete Core Skills Problem Solving at SCQF Level 6

Core Skill component None

There are also opportunities to develop aspects of Core Skills which are highlighted in the Support Notes of this Unit Specification.

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.

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.

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

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.

Outcome 1

Explain the female reproductive system and fertility cycle.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Anatomy and physiology of the female reproductive system
- ◆ Menstrual cycle
- ◆ Ovulation
- ◆ Fertilisation
- ◆ Implantation
- ◆ Cervical mucus patterns
- ◆ Effects of Oestrogen, Progesterone, Follicle Stimulating Hormone and Luteinising Hormone on the menstrual cycle

Outcome 2

Interpret and use Fertility Management Charts.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Types of cervical mucus
- ◆ Cervical mucus patterns
- ◆ Signs of fertility throughout the cycle
- ◆ Signs of ovulation

Outcome 3

Plan, Deliver and Evaluate a Fertility Management session.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Planning methods
- ◆ Communication and interpersonal skills
- ◆ Respecting boundaries, diversity and choices
- ◆ Methods of evaluating effectiveness of client session

Higher National Unit specification: Statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

Outcome 4

Evaluate own contribution to the service.

Knowledge and/or Skills

- ◆ Ethos, policies and procedures of your fertility management service
- ◆ Personal reflection and self-evaluation
- ◆ Evaluation of effectiveness based on feedback from others
- ◆ Identification of areas for self-development

Evidence Requirements for this Unit

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

Outcome 1

- ◆ describe the anatomy and physiology of the female reproductive system.
- ◆ explain the different stages of the female fertility cycle.
- ◆ describe the effect of Oestrogen, Progesterone, Follicle Stimulating Hormone and Luteinising Hormone on the female menstrual cycle.

Outcome 2

- ◆ explain what information should be recorded on a fertility management chart, and why.
- ◆ explain how to interpret the information recorded on a fertility management chart.

Outcome 3

- ◆ describe the planning process for a fertility management session.
- ◆ explain the communication and interpersonal skills required to facilitate an effective session.
- ◆ describe the evaluation process used to evaluate the effectiveness of sessions.

Outcome 4

- ◆ outline the ethos, policies and procedures of the service.
- ◆ reflect upon your own practice and evaluate your effectiveness in delivering fertility management sessions.
- ◆ gather feedback from others to inform your self-development.
- ◆ identify areas of your practice which require development.



Higher National Unit Support Notes

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

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 specialist Unit is designed to provide learners with the knowledge and understanding of female fertility. Through the application of this knowledge and understanding in practice, the learners will extend their experience of working with women who have experienced or are at risk of miscarriage and also with other team members.

Learners should ensure a sensitive approach is used in all client interactions whether following a miscarriage or while working with them on issues relating to their fertility or infertility.

Outcome 1

Learners should develop their awareness of the process of reproduction and the signs of fertility and ovulation. They will learn about normal variations in the cycle of menstruation and how to recognise when referral to health professionals or other services is appropriate.

Outcome 2

This Outcome will cover different models of managing fertility and the cycle of observation, planning, recording and reporting, eg recording Basal Body temperature, saliva testing and urine testing. Learners will develop their skills in the completion, interpretation and analysis of fertility charts using real examples from practice.

Outcome 3 and Outcome 4

These Outcomes focus on the effectiveness of the service provided to the client(s) (Outcome 3) and the contribution the learner makes to this (covered in Outcome 4). There will be opportunities to integrate aspects of teaching, learning and assessment for these Outcomes. Learners should be encouraged to recognise evaluation as a useful tool in improving the quality of the service provided and also to improve their own practice. Constructive feedback should be sought from others in order to improve own practice in areas such as assertiveness, organisational skills, team bonding, conflict resolution, negotiation skills, working with others and consistency and reliability.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

The role and responsibilities of the advisor (including observing professional boundaries, maintaining confidentiality etc.) should be examined in relation to the ethos, processes and procedures of the service as they should not be viewed in isolation.

A person-centred approach should be used by the advisor during all interactions with clients and the importance of a range communication and interpersonal skills must be highlighted, eg sensitivity and the use of language including body language.

Guidance on approaches to delivery of this Unit

Outcomes 1 and 2 should ideally be taught first as these provide much of the underpinning knowledge and skills the advisor will need to practice effectively.

The use of real examples of fertility charts should be encouraged but care should be taken to ensure client confidentiality is maintained at all times. Centres could perhaps consider compiling a range of anonymised charts to use as case studies during teaching and learning. Role-play is useful in that it allows learners to gain confidence and experience in dealing sensitively and appropriately with different situations.

Learners must be encouraged to reflect upon their own practice and identify where improvements can be made and by extension how this will improve the overall service provided to clients.

The following web sites, though not exhaustive, should provide background and specialist literature for this Unit:

- ◆ Fertility UK The National Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning Service UK <http://www.fertilityuk.org>
- ◆ Life Fertility Programme <http://www.lifefertility.co.uk>
- ◆ NHS National Institute for Clinical Excellence <http://www.nice.org.uk>
- ◆ Miscarriage Support <http://www.miscarriagesupport.org.uk>
- ◆ American Infertility Association <http://www.americaninfertility.org>
- ◆ March of Dimes (American pregnancy advice charity) <http://www.marchofdimes.com>

The references given are correct at the time of publication however centres should ensure that learners have access to current reference materials.

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.

Higher National Unit Support Notes (cont)

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

Outcome 1

This could be assessed by means of a range of short answer questions.

Outcome 2

Assessment of this Outcome should be derived from the learner's own practice. Learners should complete and accurately interpret a minimum of different client charts.

Outcome 3 and **Outcome 4** can be assessed together.

Assessment will include observation of practice (Observation checklist to cover the Evidence Requirements) on a minimum of three different occasions.

Learners could also compile a portfolio of evidence and this would include:

- ◆ Evidence of Planning sessions
- ◆ Production of a detailed evaluation report for a minimum of one session, this should specifically meet the detailed Evidence Requirements
- ◆ A minimum of one reflective account on own practice
- ◆ A summary report of own strengths and weaknesses and how these affect the overall service provision

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.

Opportunities for developing Core and other essential skills

This Unit has the Core Skill of Problem Solving embedded in it. This means that when candidates achieve the Unit, their Core Skills profile will also be updated to show that they have achieved Problem Solving at SCQF level 6.

There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards Core Skills in this Unit as follows; *Problem Solving* at SCQF level 6, *Working with Others* at SCQF level 6, *Information and Communication Technology (ICT)* at SCQF level 5, *Communication* at SCQF level 6 and *Numeracy* at SCQF level 5.

History of changes to Unit

Version	Description of change	Date
02	Core Skill Problem Solving at SCQF Level 6 embedded.	26/05/15

© Scottish Qualifications Authority [year]

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 learners

Unit title: Advising on Fertility Management for Women at Risk of Miscarriage (SCQF level 7)

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.

This Unit is particularly suitable for you if you are already working or volunteering in an environment that provides advice and guidance or a counselling service to women who have suffered, or are at risk of suffering a miscarriage.

The Unit forms part of the Professional Development Award in Fertility Support at SCQF level 8 but can also be taken as a stand-alone Unit perhaps for the purposes of your continued professional development.

You will learn about the female reproductive system and fertility cycle and how to complete and use fertility management charts. You will take part in role play to give you the experience and knowledge to plan, deliver and evaluate fertility management sessions in actual practice. As well as evaluating the session, you'll be asked to reflect upon your own practice and identify areas for future self-development.

Assessments will take place at the end of each Unit and will be a range of short-answer questions, observation of practice, reflective account and evaluation report.

You will have the opportunity to develop your Core Skills in *Communication, Problem Solving, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Numeracy and Working with Others* as well as transferable and soft skills in Planning, Evaluating, Negotiation, Assertiveness and Team Working.