Higher National and Graded Unit

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2017

Dental Nursing

Introduction

The actual units verified this session were:

H9R7 34	Principles in the management of plaque related diseases
H9R8 34	Dental Radiography
H9R9 34	Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning
H9R8 34	Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment
H485 34	Local Decontamination of re-useable instruments
GH75 48	Delivering Oral Health Interventions
GJ6K 48	Intravenous Sedation for Dental Nurses
H0AH 34	Dental Radiography – Operator
H8P9 35	Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment
HA02 34	Graded Unit 1
HA03 35	Graded Unit 2
H66M 33	H & S in Dental or Medical Reception Area
H49P 33	Customer Care
H66L 33	Reflective Practice in a Dental or Medical Environment
H66K 34	Dental Reception Skills
H66K 34	Medical Reception Skills
FE08 04	Supervise an Office Facility
DF4D 33	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness

Almost all centres that had a verification visit this session resulted in a rating of 'significant strengths'.

Category 2: Resources

Criterion 2.4: There must be evidence of initial and ongoing reviews of assessment environments; equipment; and reference, learning and assessment materials.

All centres had evidence of ongoing reviews of assessment environment; equipment and reference, and learning and assessment materials. This was evidenced through notes of the meetings. Learning materials were seen to be of good quality.

Category 3: Candidate support

Criterion 3.2: Candidates' development needs and prior achievements (where appropriate) must be matched against the requirements of the award.

All centres had evidence of candidates' development needs, and prior achievements matched the requirements of the awards undertaken. The format varied between different centres and awards. Full time candidates complete college application forms and attend interviews. Interview checklists are used to ensure the candidate's development needs and prior

achievements match the requirements of the award. Candidates are informed of the Learning Support services available in each college and candidates may undergo screening for Dyslexia.

Part time training centres have their own arrangements and some have minimum entry requirements.

Criterion 3.3: Candidates must have scheduled contact with their assessor to review their progress and to revise their assessment plans accordingly.

All centres had either Master folders or Schemes of work for HN units detailing Tutor/Assessor contact and timetables for stages of units/graded units.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

Criterion 4.2: Internal assessment and verification procedures must be implemented to ensure standardisation of assessment.

All centres had comprehensive strategies or marking guides, and these were seen to be effective in standardising procedures and the quality of the decisions made.

Criterion 4.3: Assessment instruments and methods and their selection and use must be valid, reliable, practicable, equitable and fair.

Almost all centres delivering awards with written assessments ensured that these had been prior verified and had comprehensive marking guidance which was reviewed regularly. Many of the Assessments were devised in line with the unit specification requirements by occupationally competent subject specialists.

Criterion 4.4: Assessment evidence must be the candidate's own work, generated under SQA's required conditions.

All centres evidenced closed-book invigilated examinations where required. There was strict retention and disposal of SQA secure site materials where they were used as a form of assessment and in qualifications/units that required a portfolio, these were accompanied by a declaration from the student confirming that this was their own work.

Criterion 4.6: Evidence of candidates' work must be accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements.

All centres had marking guides and the use of double marking by assessors was robust, ensuring that candidates' work was accurately and consistently judged in line with unit specifications.

Criterion 4.7: Candidate evidence must be retained in line with SQA requirements.

All centres retain candidate evidence in line with SQA requirements, with most centres retaining evidence for a longer period than required.
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Criterion 4.9: Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.

All centres were very effective at circulating the reports and the feedback from verifiers. This was evident from staff discussions and notes of staff meetings where reports were shared and discussed.

Areas of good practice report by qualification verifiers

The following good practice was reported during session 2016–17:

♦ Double marked assessments.
♦ Secure electronic systems that were easy to access and navigate.
♦ Ongoing meetings and communication with external speakers who were subject specialists.
♦ Video communication platforms which can support candidates through portfolios of evidence.

Specific areas for development

The following area for development was reported during session 2016–17:

♦ Centres should be vigilant when changes are made to unit numbers and evidence requirements to ensure that they are providing assessments in line with the latest unit specification.