



**Higher National Qualifications
Internal Assessment Report 2015
Sports Therapy**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in Higher National Qualifications in this subject.

Higher National Units

General comments

The HND Sports Therapy award was revalidated in April 2014 and included the new HNC award which was validated in August 2013. Currently only two centres offer HND Sports Therapy and only one has so far delivered the full new award.

The revalidated award requires a holistic approach in its delivery and assessment, particularly in the first year, which we believe has occurred in the centre that has been delivering the new version. Centres would benefit from support materials which are in the process of being finalised.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Five additional assessment support packs have been written this academic session to complement the award, which should be helpful for delivery staff.

Evidence Requirements

For the Units externally verified, the Evidence Requirements were interpreted accurately.

Administration of assessments

For the Units externally verified, the assessments were valid and reliable and administered without undue prejudice to any learner. There were some minor cases where greater clarity could be used in marking criteria, which would aid standardisation, and centres generally would be well advised to take this on board. Prior verification of any centre-devised assessments is strongly recommended.

General feedback

This award is in the early stages of delivery in centres and would benefit from regular reflection by course teams in terms of delivery and assessment. Comments should be shared with SQA.

Areas of good practice

Learners had indicated effective support from tutors.

Specific areas for improvement

Centres should ensure that marking guidelines are explicit for all assessors and internal verifiers to ensure standardisation.

Higher National Graded Units

Titles/levels of HN Graded Units verified:

H4XP 34 Soft Tissue Therapy: Graded Unit 1

General comments

Learners had chosen a range of 'topics' and these had been appropriately assessed.

Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

An assessment support pack for this Unit is currently under development.

Evidence Requirements

The Evidence Requirements were clearly understood.

Administration of assessments

Assessments were administered appropriately.

General feedback

Learners received a good level of support. However, not all comments were recorded.

Areas of good practice

Soft Tissue Therapy is new, dynamic and innovative. It requires time to develop good practice in a teaching environment.

Specific areas for improvement

It is important for all staff to be aware of the global picture (minimum UK) in terms of the profession in which they are educating learners. Centres should be actively supporting subject-specific CPD to ensure all assessors and internal verifiers are current in this very dynamic industry.