Next Gen: HN unit specification

Face and Body Electrotherapy (SCQF level 7)

Unit code: JM6O 47

SCQF level: 7 (16 SCQF credit points)

Valid from: August 2026

This unit specification provides detailed information about the unit to ensure consistent and transparent assessment year on year. It is for lecturers and assessors, and contains all the mandatory information you need to deliver and assess the unit.

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Unit purpose

This unit equips learners with the knowledge to improve various skin and body conditions using face and body electrotherapy equipment. Learners understand the effects of electrotherapy treatments and demonstrate appropriate consultation and communication techniques to identify specific skin concerns and individual client needs.

They correctly prepare and use a selection of electrotherapy equipment, adapt treatments, and combine electrotherapy equipment to achieve maximum results, while following health and safety legislation. They also evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment and consider assessor and client feedback. Learners' appearance and performance should reflect industry standards.

This unit is a mandatory unit in Higher National Certificate (HNC) Beauty Therapy. It also contributes to the whole qualification grading for HNC Beauty Therapy. Learners can study this unit on a stand-alone basis.

This unit is beneficial for learners who wish to pursue a career in the beauty therapy industry and/or individuals who are looking to enhance their skillset to provide face and body treatments using electrotherapy equipment.

Entry is at the discretion of your centre. However, we recommend before starting this unit, learners should have completed or are in the process of completing a relevant:

- anatomy and physiology qualification
- facial skin therapy qualification
- body massage qualification

For health and safety reasons, it is the centre's responsibility to ensure that candidates are 16 years old at the time of registration. See the Hair and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) fact sheet for more information on pre-16 age restrictions.

On completion of this unit, learners can progress to further study, including additional Higher National units at SCQF Level 7 and 8. This unit contributes to overall progression in the subject area.

Unit outcomes

Learners who complete this unit can:

1. research and describe electrotherapy treatments
2. prepare for face and body electrotherapy treatments
3. consult and devise a face and body electrotherapy treatment plan
4. perform face and body electrotherapy treatments
5. evaluate the effectiveness of the electrotherapy treatments

Evidence requirements

You must assess outcome 1 under open-book conditions. Learners must research and present the relevant information. You must complete an assessor checklist to confirm that learners have met the research evidence requirements.

You must assess outcomes 2 to 5 practically and holistically.

You must complete an assessor observation checklist to record the learner's performance, supported by a detailed client consultation record.

Outcome 1: research and describe electrotherapy treatments

Learners produce an open-book report that is reflective of the demands of SCQF level 7 and demonstrates a clear understanding of key concepts.

Learners must:

- describe how each piece of electrotherapy equipment works (including the specific effects and the type of current, where relevant) including:
    - microcurrent
    - galvanic
    - microdermabrasion
    - LED light
    - high-frequency

    - radiofrequency
    - electrical muscle stimulation (EMS)
    - lymphatic drainage equipment
    - soundwave technology

- describe the effects and benefits of the stated electrotherapy equipment on the relevant face and body systems, including:

    - integumentary
    - skeletal
    - muscular
    - circulatory
    - lymphatic
    - nervous

- identify and describe absolute and relative contra-indications to electrotherapy treatments
- identify and describe contra-actions and adverse reactions to electrotherapy treatment and how to respond, should they occur
- conduct research, using various appropriate resources
- use academic referencing and create a bibliography

Outcome 2: prepare for face and body electrotherapy treatments

Learners must carry out an observed practical performance to plan for a **minimum of three clients**, covering a **minimum of four facial and four body electrotherapy treatments.**

Learners must:

- present themselves professionally and wear personal protective equipment (PPE)
- prepare the electrotherapy treatment area, products and equipment in accordance with industry standards, following health, safety and hygiene practices
- sterilise and sanitise all tools and work surfaces before use

Outcome 3: consult and devise a face and body electrotherapy treatment plan

Learners must perform an observed comprehensive consultation and devise a personalised treatment plan for a **minimum of three clients**, covering a **minimum of four facial and four body electrotherapy treatments** to treat identified skin or body conditions.

Learners must:

- carry out thorough consultations, covering:
    - absolute and relative contra-indications to treatment
    - current medical history and medication
    - relevant lifestyle factors
    - medications and medical conditions
    - clients' current face and body skin care regime
    - facial and body analysis
    - clients' concerns, expectations and desired outcomes
- develop and agree a treatment plan for each client
- explain the treatment protocols and physical sensations to the client
- discuss potential outcomes and associated risks, contra-actions and adverse reactions
- comply with the legislative requirements of gaining signed, informed consent
- confirm with clients that they have understood the proposed treatment plan and treatment

Outcome 4: perform face and body electrotherapy treatments

Learners must perform face and body electrotherapy treatments on a minimum of three clients, covering a **minimum of four facial and four body electrotherapy treatments**, to treat identified skin or body conditions.

Learners must:

- follow industry standards and procedures for timings, sequences, and applications
- carry out pre-treatment equipment testing and relevant skin thermal and sensitivity testing
- perform treatments, following manufacturer guidelines and treatment protocols for facial treatments. Learners must select a minimum of four electrotherapy treatments from the following list:
    - galvanic
    - microcurrent
    - microdermabrasion
    - LED light therapy
    - radiofrequency
    - high-frequency
    - sound wave technology
    - lymphatic drainage
- perform treatments, following manufacturer guidelines and treatment protocols for body treatments. Learners must select a minimum of four electrotherapy treatments from the following list:
    - radiofrequency
    - electrical muscle stimulation (EMS)
    - galvanic
    - microdermabrasion
    - lymphatic drainage equipment
    - sound wave technology
    - microcurrent
- provide specific and relevant aftercare advice, as well as customised homecare, product and future treatment advice, to achieve maximum results
- work sustainably and economically, following health and safety legislation throughout

Outcome 5: evaluate the effectiveness of the electrotherapy treatments

Learners must:

- obtain written client feedback, post-treatment
- evaluate electrotherapy treatments and the degree of success achieved, considering:
    - performance
    - timings
    - treatment application
    - results of treatment
- evaluate feedback from the client
- reflect on the treatment objectives
- reflect on feedback from the assessor
- consider how to use feedback to improve future practice and practical skills

Knowledge and skills

Knowledge	Skills

Outcome 1
Learners should understand:
• how each piece of equipment works to produce specific effects, including the type of current used (if relevant), for the following face and body equipment:
  ○ galvanic
  ○ microcurrent
  ○ microdermabrasion
  ○ LED light therapy
  ○ high-frequency
  ○ radiofrequency
  ○ electrical muscle stimulation (EMS)
  ○ lymphatic drainage equipment
  ○ soundwave technology
• the effects of the stated electrotherapy equipment on the relevant face and body systems:
  ○ integumentary
  ○ skeletal
  ○ muscular
  ○ circulatory
  ○ lymphatic
  ○ nervous
• the importance of identifying specific absolute and relative contra-indications on clients
• how to identify possible specific contra-actions and adverse reactions for each piece of equipment, and how to respond, should they occur
	Outcome 1
	Learners can:
	• research electrotherapy equipment
	• produce an open-book report that includes:
	  ○ research on each piece of electrotherapy equipment
	  ○ a description of how each piece of equipment works to bring about specific effects, including the type of current (where relevant)
	  ○ a description of the effects and benefits of the equipment on the body systems
	  ○ a description of contra-indications, contra-actions, possible adverse reactions, and how to deal with them, should they occur

Knowledge	Skills
Outcome 1 (continued) Learners should understand: • what constitutes an appropriate and credible source when carrying out research • the importance of referencing and bibliography • how to authenticate evidence	
Outcome 2 Learners should understand: • how to prepare the areas, products, tools and equipment, following strict adherence to sanitisation and sterilisation protocols, to prevent cross-contamination and maintain a clean working environment • the importance of professional personal presentation and wearing PPE	**Outcome 2** Learners can: • present themselves professionally, in accordance with industry standards • ensure all materials and work surfaces are thoroughly sterilised and sanitised before use
Outcome 3 Learners should understand: • the importance of the consultation process • absolute and relative contra-indications • the relevance of current medical history, relevant lifestyle factors, medications and medical conditions, and current face and body skin care regimes on the potential treatment • how to identify the client's concerns, expectations and desired outcomes • potential treatment options, restrictions and outcomes	**Outcome 3** Learners can: • perform effective consultations for face and body electrotherapy treatments • identify absolute and relative contra-indications to treatments • identify specific conditions and client concerns that can be improved using electrotherapy equipment • develop and agree a face or body electrotherapy treatment plan for each client to meet their identified needs, concerns, expectations and desired outcomes • explain the treatment protocols and physical sensations of the treatment

Knowledge	Skills

Outcome 3 (continued)
Learners should understand:
• how to analyse the face, to include the following skin types:
  o dry
  o oily
  o combination
  o balanced
• how to analyse the face, to include the following skin conditions:
  o milia
  o comedones
  o lax elasticity
  o photo-aged
  o hypo- and hyper-pigmentation
  o congested
  o pustular
  o fragile
  o vascular
  o sensitised
  o sensitive
  o dehydrated
  o lacklustre
  o boils
  o carbuncles
  o open pores
  o blocked pores
• how to analyse the face, to include skin classifications such as:
  o the Fitzpatrick scale
  o phenotype
  o genotype
  o the Lancer scale
	Outcome 3 (continued)
	Learners can:
	• discuss potential outcomes and associated risks, and contra-actions and adverse reactions with the client, and advise how to manage them
	• complete client consultation documents to reflect industry practice

Knowledge	Skills

Outcome 3 (continued)
Learners understand:
• intrinsic and extrinsic ageing factors
• how to analyse the body, including:
  o body type
  o postural analysis
  o BMI
  o body measurements
• how to select treatments to achieve a particular outcome
• how to explain the treatment process and physical sensations to the client
• associated risks, contra-actions and adverse reactions, and how to respond, should they occur
• the legislative requirements of gaining signed, informed consent and confirming with the client that they have understood the proposed treatment plan
• how to complete the electrotherapy treatment consultation documents to reflect industry standards	

Knowledge	Skills

Outcome 4
Learners should understand:
• how to follow industry standards and procedures for timing, sequencing and applying electrotherapy treatments
• how to perform the following electrotherapy treatments according to manufacturer guidelines and treatment protocols for the face:
  ○ galvanic
  ○ microcurrent
  ○ microdermabrasion
  ○ LED light therapy
  ○ radiofrequency
  ○ high-frequency
  ○ sound wave technology
  ○ lymphatic drainage
• how to perform the following electrotherapy treatments according to manufacturer guidelines and treatment protocols for the body:
  ○ radiofrequency
  ○ EMS
  ○ galvanic
  ○ microdermabrasion
  ○ lymphatic drainage
  ○ sound wave technology
  ○ microcurrent
• how to carry out pre-treatment equipment testing and relevant skin thermal and sensitivity testing
• how to perform treatments following manufacturer guidelines, treatment protocol and best practice guidance
	Outcome 4
	Learners can:
	• perform face and body electrotherapy treatments reflective of industry standards for timings, sequences and applications
	• carry out pre-treatment equipment testing and relevant skin testing
	• follow relevant health and safety legislation
	• follow manufacturer guidelines and treatment protocols, demonstrating best-practice guidance and legal requirements
	• provide specific and relevant aftercare and customised homecare advice, as well as product and future treatment advice
	• work sustainably and economically

Knowledge	Skills
Outcome 4 (continued) Learners must understand: • how to provide specific and relevant aftercare advice, customised homecare advice and future treatment advice to achieve maximum results • how to work sustainably, economically and following health and safety legislation	
Outcome 5 Learners should understand: • the importance of reflective practice • methods used to evaluate the effectiveness of each treatment • how to accept and use client and assessor feedback • how to evaluate the effectiveness of the electrotherapy treatment, reflecting on the client's aims • how client and assessor feedback can influence future practice to continuously improve practical skills	**Outcome 5** Learners can: • evaluate the effectiveness of each electrotherapy treatment applied and identify the degree of success achieved, considering: o performance o timings o treatment application o treatment results o client feedback • reflect on the treatment objectives and assessor feedback • record the evaluation on electrotherapy consultation documents • use feedback to influence future practice and continuously improve practical skills

Meta-skills

You must give learners opportunities to develop their meta-skills throughout this unit. We have suggested how to incorporate the most relevant ones into the unit content, but you may find other opportunities.

Self-management

This includes focusing, integrity, adapting and initiative. The most relevant are:

- focusing:
    - ensuring clients' needs and requirements are met on each occasion
    - creating a suitable treatment plan to treat the client effectively and progress through the unit
- integrity:
    - respecting the client while managing treatment expectations
    - having the client's aims at the forefront of the treatment
    - building trust with the client, particularly as clients may share confidential information
    - strictly following GDPR guidelines
- adapting:
    - adjusting to any unforeseen circumstances during treatment
    - adjusting treatment plans based on client needs or preferences
- initiative:
    - thinking ahead and anticipating potential challenges or needs, and proactively addressing these issues
    - creating comprehensive and effective treatment plans
    - finding innovative solutions to clients' concerns
    - providing personalised and effective treatment options that cater to the unique needs of each client

Social intelligence

This includes communicating, feeling, collaborating and leading. The most relevant are:

- communicating:
    - ensuring that the client understands the treatment plan
    - actively listening to and collating information from the client
    - ensuring the client is comfortable and well-informed throughout and after the treatment
- feeling:
    - providing support through empathy to ease client anxiety and stress
    - be understanding, empathetic and use good communication skills to put the client at ease throughout the treatment process
- collaborating:
    - working with peers in the salon environment to co-ordinate work and assisting each other, when required
- leading:
    - guiding the client through the treatment process
    - working out treatment plans for clients
    - providing appropriate treatments and advice to clients

Innovation

This includes curiosity, creativity, sense-making and critical thinking. The most relevant is:

- sense-making:
    - interpreting and understanding information from the client

- using information and knowledge of how equipment affects various body systems when devising a specific treatment that improves the client's identified condition

Literacies

Learners complete a written report addressing specified criteria in detail to show an understanding of the equipment. Learners work independently using prior knowledge, as well as industry sources, to support their explanations and demonstrate their knowledge. The report should be coherent, well-constructed and reflective of the SCQF level.

Learners must write reflectively when evaluating their performance, highlighting areas of competence and areas where they could improve or require support.

This unit provides opportunities to develop the following literacies.

Numeracy

Learners develop numeracy skills by:

- planning treatments in relation to selected timings to meet industry requirements
- using numerical formulas to decipher safe equipment timings and intensity

Communication

Learners develop communication skills by:

- conducting consultations effectively and communicating with peers

Digital

Learners develop digital skills by:

- researching and producing an open-book report

Learning for Sustainability

Throughout this unit, you should encourage learners to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of sustainability.

This includes:

- a general understanding of social, economic and environmental sustainability
- a general understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- a deeper understanding of subject-specific sustainability
- the confidence to apply the skills, knowledge, understanding and values they develop in the next stage of their life

Learners develop a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and recognise the impact these have on the environment.

Key areas of consideration include:

- sustainability of product brands used
- recycling of product packaging and consumables
- salon waste and chemical disposal measures
- reusable consumables
- reducing use of plastic
- reducing use of energy
- conserving water

Delivery of unit

This is a mandatory unit in HNC Beauty Therapy. Learners can complete this as a stand-alone unit. Before they start, learners should have prior knowledge of or be working towards relevant qualifications in anatomy and physiology, facial manual techniques and body massage.

We recommend 80 hours for delivery and assessment. The amount of time you allocate to each outcome is at your centre's discretion.

We suggest the following distribution of time, including assessment:

Outcome 1: Research and describe electrotherapy treatments (5 hours)

Outcome 2: Prepare for face and body electrotherapy treatments (10 hours)

Outcome 3: Consult and devise a face and body electrotherapy treatment plan (10 hours)

Outcome 4: Perform face and body electrotherapy treatments (50 hours)

Outcome 5: Evaluate the effectiveness of the electrotherapy treatments (5 hours)

Additional guidance

The guidance in this section is not mandatory.

Content and context for this unit

Teach learners about the effects and uses of select equipment on the various body systems, as well as correct applications of:

Facial	Body
microcurrent	radiofrequency
galvanic	electrical muscle stimulation (EMS)
microdermabrasion	body galvanic
LED light therapy	body microdermabrasion
radiofrequency	lymphatic drainage equipment
high-frequency	sound wave technology
sound wave technology	microcurrent
lymphatic drainage	

Learners identify absolute and relative contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions, and how to manage them. They research electrotherapy treatments and develop an understanding of the effects and benefits of selected treatments on identified skin and body conditions.

Learners demonstrate effective communication techniques to consult with clients to identify specific skin or body concerns and develop bespoke treatment plans, incorporating a selection of electrotherapy equipment to treat identified concerns. Learners carry out treatments on clients that:

- cover the specified range of equipment
- demonstrate knowledge of treatment applications

- follow organisational and industry standards for self-presentation, timings and sequences
- follow relevant health and safety legislation

In addition to the specific vocational skills learners develop and are assessed on, they also develop generic skills that enhance their employability skills profile — for example, skills in customer care, communication and time management, as well as enhancing their meta-skills.

Resources

The occupational expertise of those involved in the assessment and quality assurance processes is key to ensuring valid, fair and reliable assessment. The assessor and internal verifier must be occupationally competent.

They must:

- hold an appropriate professional and/or technical qualification, for example HND Beauty Therapy or equivalent, that demonstrates an in-depth technical knowledge of the unit and the standard of competencies required
- hold an appropriate teaching qualification, or be working towards one
- be aware of current working practices, technologies and products in the beauty industry and committed to upholding the integrity of the unit
- demonstrate competence in assessment and/or internal verification of the subject
- have access to and engage with continuous professional development activities, to keep up to date with developments and any issues relevant to the unit

All products, equipment and tools should be of a professional quality, and reflect industry standards.

Learners must have access to:

- practical examples: real-life industry applications of electrotherapy to provide context
- salon setup: plinths, laundry, heated beds and/or blankets, candles, disposable towels, music, lighting and general ambiance

- digital tools: laptops, tablets and computers
- e-learning platforms for virtual classes or supplementary learning (for example, Microsoft Teams, Moodle, Blackboard)
- presentation tools like PowerPoint and TikTok for visual learning aids
- course materials: learner handouts, textbooks, articles, and other reading and/or reference materials
- multimedia content: videos, podcasts, or online tutorials
- formative and summative assignments and quizzes to track progress and understanding
- budget: sufficient funding for appropriate materials and tools
- facilities: access to a realistic working environment that reflects current industry practice, including toilet and water facilities
- library access for research and study

Approaches to delivery

Discuss and demonstrate to learners how to use electrotherapy equipment to improve specific skin or body concerns. You should also explain how each piece of equipment is designed to bring about desired treatment results.

Demonstrations should include:

- how to prepare the work area
- health and safety requirements of work area, including equipment set up and testing, if required
- explanations of how to incorporate electrotherapy equipment into the treatment appropriately
- how to sequence the order of equipment correctly and safely when using multiple pieces of equipment

Encourage learners to work on each other to develop their skills and build competence in applying the equipment. Once proficient, learners should work on clients, to carry out full consultations, including skin and body analysis to identify any absolute or relative contra-indications, client aims and specific concerns that can be improved using electrotherapy equipment.

You should introduce learners to the unit to ensure they fully understand what is required to complete it successfully. You should clearly outline the learning approach and assessment criteria, along with the content to be covered before starting the unit. You must encourage a participative and practical approach throughout the course.

Given the practical nature of the unit, every aspect of learning and teaching should integrate both theory and practice to facilitate effective learning. This helps learners grasp the relevance of the knowledge as they experience its practical application. You should also encourage learners to draw on their knowledge of anatomy and physiology to better understand the benefits of electrotherapy.

Initially, you should use practical demonstrations to show learners how to carry out face and body analysis and correctly use each piece of electrotherapy equipment, reinforcing the effects and benefits of each treatment as well as how the equipment actively creates the identified effects and benefits on specific body systems and improves conditions.

You can use additional demonstrations to show and discuss how to adapt equipment tools and treatment timings, as well as how to potentially combine pieces of equipment to enhance effects and achieve maximum results when treating a variation of skin and/or body conditions to meet the client's needs. We recommend that you also demonstrate treatment area preparation and client preparation so that learners understand how to professionally organise themselves and incorporate any health and safety considerations.

Learners should carry out specific pre-treatment tests to ensure safe use of equipment and check client suitability, as well as discuss how to interpret the results and potential consequences of proceeding with treatment. Learners must be aware of the risks associated with face and body electrical treatments and the precautions they should take.

We have identified a list of general contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions across the HNC. However, not all apply to every unit. Some units may include subject-specific contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions that learners must also consider.

Where applicable, learners may cross-reference prior evidence if they have already been assessed in contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions in other units in HNC Beauty Therapy.

The following is a generic list of absolute and relative contra-indications that apply to face and body electrotherapy treatments:

- fungal infections
- parasitic infections
- viral infections
- bacterial infections
- allergies
- recent injuries: cuts, abrasions, scars, operations, fractures or bruising
- undergoing medical treatments (chemotherapy, Roaccutane)
- sunburn
- skin disorders (severe psoriasis and severe eczema)
- dysfunction of the nervous system
- under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- hypersensitive skin
- eye infections
- recent aesthetic procedures (microneedling, Botox and/or fillers)
- epilepsy (uncontrolled)
- diabetes (uncontrolled)
- high blood pressure (uncontrolled)
- low blood pressure (uncontrolled)
- claustrophobia
- pregnancy

This is an additional list of subject-specific conditions, contra-actions and adverse reactions for face and body electrotherapy treatments:

- history of thrombosis or emobolism
- varicose veins
- heart conditions
- pacemaker

- metal pins and plates
- medications
- piercings
- adverse skin reactions
- swelling
- bruising
- dizziness, lightheaded and/or nausea
- skin breakouts
- increased urination and/or bowel activity
- muscle soreness and/or muscle fatigue
- headaches
- general fatigue
- heightened emotional release and/or healing crisis

Give learners time after your demonstrations so they can practise, develop their skills, and gain confidence before progressing to practical assessment on clients, which they carry out in a commercially viable timeframe.

Emphasise the importance of professional communication with clients throughout all stages of the treatment:

- during the initial consultation, to gather important and accurate information that enables learners to create appropriate and effective treatment plans
- throughout the treatment, to ensure client comfort
- when giving specific aftercare, homecare and product advice relevant to the treatment provided

Integrate relevant current legislation knowledge in a realistic context so learners understand how it affects daily salon practice. This helps them recognise their responsibilities regarding legislation so that they can check their own working practices and working areas for any risks to themselves or others.

Encourage learners to develop good working practices that meet current occupational and national health and safety policies and procedures. This also enhances their employability skills and develops meta-skills.

Regularly monitor learners' progress and give them feedback that highlights aspects where they did well and any areas in which they need to improve.

Approaches to assessment

The guidance in this section is not mandatory. 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 should get prior verification of centre-devised assessments to ensure that the national standard is being met. Where learners experience a range of assessment methods, this helps them develop different skills that can transfer to the workplace or to further and higher education.

Learners create and carry out bespoke treatments, following manufacturer guidelines and treatment protocols, ensuring client comfort and adherence to health and safety legislation throughout. Learners can incorporate and be assessed on more than one piece of equipment on one client on the same occasion. Learners can also perform combined face and body treatments on the same client.

Learners complete treatment by advising clients of specific aftercare and homecare requirements to minimise the risk of contra-actions. They should also recommend specific homecare products and further treatments that may enhance the effects of the treatment.

Learners should record treatments and client details on a client record card. You should use an assessor observation checklist to track learner progress.

You should holistically assess learners throughout the unit. You should assess all listed equipment in outcome 1 to allow for flexibility in accessing resources. Learners are only required to perform treatments using a selection of four pieces of equipment for face, and four pieces of equipment for body.

Learners should identify and describe the generalised effects and benefits of treatments on the body systems, including a range of the following:

- increased circulation
- increased lymphatic flow
- relaxed muscle fibres
- enhanced skin elasticity
- improved skin tone and appearance
- reduced tension in muscle fibres
- improved appearance of cellulite
- improved venous return
- improved sense of well-being
- improved joint mobility
- regulated desquamation
- increased sebaceous secretions
- soothed nerve endings
- improved cellular regeneration

Outcome 1 is an open-book assessment in which learners produce a written report to describe the stated electrotherapy treatments. Encourage learners to research using various appropriate resources, such as industry textbooks and professional journals. Learners should work independently to cover all stated criteria, demonstrating a depth of knowledge reflective of the SCQF level. We recommend that centres use learning platforms that authenticate learners' submitted work. You should holistically assess outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5. Learners must perform face and body electrotherapy treatments on a minimum of three clients covering a **minimum of four facial and four body electrotherapy treatments** to treat the identified skin or body conditions. They can combine treatments for face and body — for example: client 1: facial microdermabrasion, LED, body galvanic and lymphatic draining.

You should use an assessor observation checklist, and learners should complete a thorough client consultation record to ensure all evidence requirements are met and documented to track learner progress throughout the unit.

At all times, learners' personal presentation and behaviours should reflect industry standards, following National Occupational Standards (NOS), and you should encourage them to develop a professional and positive work ethic.

Equality and inclusion

This unit is designed to be as fair and as accessible as possible with no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment.

You must consider the needs of individual learners when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Guidance on assessment arrangements for disabled learners and those with additional support needs is available on the assessment arrangements web page.

Information for learners

Face and Body Electrotherapy (SCQF level 7)

This information explains:

- what the unit is about
- what you should know or be able to do before you start
- what you need to do during the unit
- opportunities for further learning and employment

Unit information

This unit gives you the skills you need to carry out a selection of face and body electrotherapy treatments. You use electrotherapy equipment to bring about specific effects that improve a variety of identified facial skin and body conditions. You conduct research and gather information to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how the equipment works to bring about effects, including describing the use of various currents, where relevant. You effectively communicate with your clients, with a thorough consultation to identify their concerns and aims of treatment, as well as potential absolute and relative contra-indications that may affect your treatment planning. You carry out a skin and body analysis using appropriate tools, where relevant.

You are responsible for planning and performing safe, effective treatments on clients using a variety of available equipment to treat identified face and body conditions. You must ensure that your treatments are reflective of organisational and industry standards for treatment areas, treatment applications, timings and self-presentation.

You advise clients on aftercare, homecare and product advice that may compliment the treatment, as well as ensure there is minimal risk of contra-actions and adverse reactions. You also manage any potential contra-actions, should they occur. On completion of your practical assessment, you collate assessor and client feedback and effectively reflect on and evaluate your performance.

Before carrying out this unit, you should be competent in facial manual treatment and body massage, as aspects of these treatments are incorporated into the electrotherapy treatments. Prior understanding of anatomy and physiology and the effects and benefits of electrotherapy equipment on the various body systems is also helpful.

This unit broadens your employability skillset in preparation for work in the beauty industry. The knowledge you gain also prepares you for further study in HND Beauty Therapy.

Meta-skills

Throughout this unit, you develop meta-skills that are useful for the beauty therapy sector.

Meta-skills are transferable behaviours and abilities that help you adapt and succeed in life, study and work. There are three categories of meta-skills: self-management, social intelligence and innovation.

Self-management

- focusing:
    - ensuring clients' needs and requirements are met on each occasion
    - creating a suitable treatment plan to treat the client effectively and progress through the unit
- integrity:
    - respecting the client while managing treatment expectations
    - having the client's aims at the forefront of the treatment
    - building trust with the client, particularly as clients may share confidential information
    - strictly following GDPR guidelines

- adapting:
    - adjusting to any unforeseen circumstances during treatment
    - adjusting treatment plans based on client needs or preferences
- initiative:
    - thinking ahead and anticipating potential challenges or needs, and proactively addressing these issues
    - creating comprehensive and effective treatment plans
    - finding innovative solutions to clients' concerns
    - providing personalised and effective treatment options that cater to the unique needs of each client

Social intelligence

- communicating:
    - ensuring that the client understands the treatment plan
    - actively listening to and collating information from the client
    - ensuring the client is comfortable and well-informed throughout and after the treatment
- feeling:
    - providing support through empathy to ease client anxiety and stress
    - be understanding, empathetic and use good communication skills to put the client at ease throughout the treatment process
- collaborating:
    - working with peers in the salon environment to co-ordinate work and assisting each other, when required
- leading:
    - guiding the client through the treatment process
    - working out treatment plans for clients

- providing appropriate treatments and advice to clients

Innovation

- sense-making:
  - interpreting and understanding information from the client
  - using information and knowledge of how equipment affects various body systems when devising a specific treatment that improves the client's identified condition

Learning for Sustainability

Throughout this unit, you develop skills, knowledge and understanding of sustainability.

You learn about social, economic and environmental sustainability principles and how they relate to the beauty therapy sector. You also develop an understanding of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

You develop a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and recognise the impact these have on the environment. Key areas of consideration include:

- sustainability of product brands used
- recycling of product packaging and consumables
- salon waste and chemical disposal measures
- reusable consumables
- reducing use of plastic
- reducing use of energy
- conserving water

Administrative information

Published: June 2026 (version 1.0)

Superclass: HL

History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date

Please check our website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this unit.

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