SQA

Group Award Specification for the:

HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing

Group Award Code: GW0L 15

and

HND in Dental Nursing

Group Award Code: GW0M 16

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Contents

1.   Introduction

The purpose of this document is to:

- Assist centres to implement, deliver and manage the qualification.

- Provide a guide for new staff involved in offering the qualification.

- Inform course managers teaching staff, assessors, learners, employers and higher education institutes (HEIs) of the aims and purpose of the qualification.

- Provide details of the range of learners the qualification is suitable for and progression opportunities.

SQA provides a dental nursing training curriculum that offers learning opportunities from entry level awards at SCQF level 5 and 6, to extended duty specialisms at SCQF levels 8 and 9.

The curriculum is suitable for those wishing to access a career in oral health care and also provides clear routes for progression for those who wish to continue with their studies and practice at a higher level.

The group awards; the Higher National Certificate (HNC) and Higher National Diploma (HND) in Dental Nursing, are occupationally specific, industry-led qualifications and have been developed under the Design Principles for Higher National Qualifications. They have been produced in collaboration with key stakeholders from the public and private sectors, further education colleges and NHS Education for Scotland (NES).

The HNC and HND in Dental Nursing were first validated in 2011. They were developed in response to a need for a clear progression route within oral health care education.

In 2025 the HNC was fully revised to take into account the changes to the reaccredited framework of the Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) in Dental Nursing and revised Professional Development Award (PDA) in Dental Nursing. Many of the SVQ and PDA units are also embedded in the HN framework.

These are the two qualifications* which are required to seek registration with the General Dental Council (GDC).

The HND was updated to reflect the changes to the HNC and continues to provide a broad range of extended duty topics at SCQF levels 8 and 9, such as Dental Impressions, Special Care, Radiography, Inhalation and Intravenous Sedation, Practice Inspection and Managing Quality.

These topics are aligned with the current GDC Scope of Practice to facilitate continuing professional development (CPD) for qualified dental nurses.

Learners may exit after successful completion of Year 1 with an HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing.

*It must be noted that achievement of the HNC alone does not allow learners to seek access to the GDC register. The SVQ and PDA in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7 are the only qualifications valid for GDC registration.

Predecessor HN Qualifications

Learners already registered for the HNC in Dental Nursing GL64 15 will have until the 31 July 2028 to complete it.

Learners already registered for the HND in Dental Nursing GP80 16 will have until 31 July 2029 to complete it.

2.   Qualification structures

The HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing comprises 12 HN credit points.

There are 11 HN credits, 95 SCQF credit points taken from the mandatory and mandatory optional section including a graded unit of 8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 7.

A further one HN credit with a minimum of 8, and a maximum of 26 SCQF credit points will be completed from the optional section of the framework.

A mapping of Core Skills development opportunities is available in section 5.4.

2.1   HNC in Dental Nursing

Mandatory units: 10 SQA credits to be completed:

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J8TE	34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	1	8	7
J8TF	34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	1	8	7
J8TH	34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	1	8	7
J8TG	34	Dental Radiography	1	8	7
J8W8	04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	1	10	7
J95K	34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
J8W9	04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	1	10	7
J8W0	04	Provide Basic Life Support	1	7	7

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J8W3	04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	1	10	7
J8VY	04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	1	10	7

Mandatory optional units: a minimum of one SQA credit to be completed:

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
DF4E	34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	1	8	7
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7

Optional units: up to one SQA credit to be completed:

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J8W2	04	Provide Information and Support to Individuals on Oral Health	1	13	7
J8W4	04	Contribute to Producing Dental Radiographic Images	1	11	7
J8W1	04	Prepare and Maintain Safe Working Practices in Clinical Dental Environments	1	17	7
J8W6	04	Provide Chairside Support During Prosthetic Procedures	1	15	7
J8W5	04	Provide Chairside Support During Periodontal and Restorative Procedures	1	26	7

2.2   The HND in Dental Nursing

The group award framework is made up of 30 SQA HN Unit credits, (20 mandatory, and 10 selected from the optional section).

It comprises a minimum of 240 SCQF credit points of which 64 are at SCQF level 8 and 9 in the mandatory section including a graded unit of 16 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8.

Structure of the HND in Dental Nursing

Mandatory units: All 20 HN credits (18 units) to be achieved:

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
FN3P	35	Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	1	8	8
J11R	36	Research in Dental Practice	1	8	9
J1SK	35	Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	2	16	8
H5WT	35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	1	8	8
H8P9	35	Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	1	8	8
J2F5	35	Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	2	16	8
J95K	34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	1	8	7
J8W0	04	Provide Basic Life Support	1	7	7
J8TE	34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	1	8	7
J8TF	34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	1	8	7
J8TH	34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	1	8	7

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J8TG	34	Dental Radiography	1	8	7
J8W9	04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	1	10	7
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7
J8W2	04	Provide Information and Support to Individuals on Oral Health	1	13	7
J8W3	04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	1	10	7
J8VY	04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	1	10	7
J8W8	04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	1	10	7

Optional section: A minimum of 10 HN credits must be achieved:

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HH85	35	Presentation Skills	1	8	8
J7LC	35	Managing the Recruitment, Induction and Performance of the Health Care Team	2	16	8
FN3R	35	Dental Nursing: Supporting Oral Health Improvement	1.5	12	8
H5WV	35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Education	2	16	8
H76E	35	Dental Nursing: Principles and Policies for Special Care Provision	1.5	12	8
H76D	35	Dental Nursing: Special Care Practice	1.5	12	8
H0AH	36	Dental Radiography: Operator	2	16	9
H0BN	35	Dental Nursing: Orthodontic Dental Nursing	2	16	8

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
HT8V	35	Dental Nursing: Intravenous Sedation	2	16	8
HT8T	35	Dental Nursing: Inhalation Sedation	2	16	8
FG6A	35	Legal Protection of NHSS Patient Data	1	8	8
DH3Y	35	Stress Management	0.5	4	8
J7KX	35	Preparing a Dental Practice for Inspection	2	16	8
F1XL	35	OHC: Managing a Dental Environment	2	16	8
H944	35	Dental Patient Assessment: Measuring and Recording Plaque Indices	1	8	8
H943	35	Intra and Extra Oral Clinical Dental Photography for Dental Care Professionals	1	8	8
H95N	35	Dental Care Professionals: Constructing Study Models	1	8	8
H95K	35	Dental Care Professionals: Constructing Mouthguards, Bleaching Trays and Vacuum Formed Retainers	1	8	8
H95L	35	Dental Care Professionals: Repairing the Acrylic Component of Removable Appliances	1	8	8
H95M	35	Dental Care Professionals: Constructing Occlusal Registration Rims and Special Trays	1	8	8
H1F0	34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1	8	7
F1XK	34	OHC: Policy and Legislation for Dental Managers	1	8	7
F20M	34	OHC: Presentation Skills for Dental Managers	1	8	7
DF4E	34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	1	8	7

4 code	2 code	Unit title	SQA credit	SCQF credit points	SCQF level
J8W5	04	Provide Chairside Support During Periodontal and Restorative Procedures	1	26	7
J8W6	04	Provide Chairside Support During Prosthetic Procedures	1	15	7
J8W4	04	Contribute to Producing Dental Radiographic Images	1	11	7
J8W1	04	Prepare and Maintain Safe Working Practices in Clinical Dental Environments	1	17	7
H485	34	Local Decontamination of Re-usable Instruments	1	8	7
H66L	33	Reflective Practice in a Dental or Medical Environment	1	8	6
H66M	33	Health and Safety in a Dental or Medical Reception Area	1	8	6
H66J	34	Dental Reception Skills	1	8	7
J2F8	35	Dental Care Professionals: Continued Professional Development (CPD)	2	16	8
J1KW	46	Workplace Health and Safety: An Introduction	1	6	6

3.   Aims of the qualification

The principal aim of the HND in Dental Nursing is to provide a nationally certificated programme of learning for those who work or wish to work at an advanced level in the oral health care sector.

Mapping of the specific aims of the group awards against unit content is shown in section 5.

3.1   General aims of the qualification

SQA HN qualifications have the following general aims:

1.   to enable progression within the SCQF.
2.   to provide opportunities for career planning and enhance learners' employment prospects.
3.   to develop transferable skills like organising, planning, personal effectiveness, team working, time management, record keeping.
4.   to develop Core Skills, that is, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Communication, Problem Solving, Working with Others and Numeracy.

3.2   Specific aims of the qualifications

3.2.1   The HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing

The HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing has the following specific aims:

1.   to provide progression from the NC in Oral Health Care: Preparing for Practice.
2.   to provide a structured programme of learning which supports learners to achieve the component knowledge units of the PDA in Dental Nursing.
3.   to enable learners to achieve key work-based units from the SVQ in Dental Nursing.
4.   to enable learners to develop specific knowledge and skills, namely:

    (a) reflective practice.

(b) infection prevention and control in the dental environment.

(c) oral health assessment and treatment planning.

(d) dental radiography.

(e) principles in the management of plaque related diseases.

(f) basic life support.

(g) preparation and maintenance of the dental environment, instruments and equipment.

(h) health and safety risk assessment within the dental environment.

(i) chairside support.

5. to enable progression to the HND in Dental Nursing.

6. to provide an exit point at the end of Year 1 for learners who are unable to continue with the HND.

3.2.2 The HND in Dental Nursing

The HND in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing has the following specific aims:

1. To develop the advanced clinical skills, knowledge and understanding that aligns with the GDC's Scope of Practice for dental nurses, namely:

(a) oral health promotion and dental public health.

(b) dental impressions.

(c) quality improvement.

(d) health and safety.

(e) research skills.

(f) intravenous sedation.

(g) inhalation sedation.

(h) supporting special care provision.

(i) orthodontic dental nursing.

2. To develop advanced professional attitudes and practice in relation to patient treatment, namely:

    (a) patient care and quality improvement.

    (b) health and safety.

    (c) data handling and GDPR.

    (d) own continued professional development.

3. To develop skills and knowledge to support the learning and development of colleagues.

4. To provide the opportunity for progression to higher education degree courses.

3.3   Graded units

3.3.1   Oral Health Care: Graded Unit 1

The Graded Unit 1 is an assignment which has been designed to enable learners to integrate their knowledge, theory and where applicable practice in terms of:

- providing support to the dental team.

- providing oral health care to a range of individuals during different dental procedures.

- developing their skills and knowledge whilst in employment or placement within in a dental environment.

- enabling reflective practice.

- facilitation of progression to a higher level of dental nursing education.

3.3.2   Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2

The Graded Unit 2 is an investigation which will require the learner to:

- examine a range of theoretical and practice-based perspectives relating to the management of health and safety and infection control in a dental environment.

- consolidate knowledge and skills required for taking dental impressions and delivering oral health education.

- develop research skills and analyse evidence-based guidance.

- demonstrate clearly the importance of collaborative working and integrative practice.

- evaluate and apply quality standards to improve the quality of processes and procedures in a dental practice.

4 Recommended entry to the qualification

Entry to this qualification is at the discretion of the centre. The following information on prior knowledge, skills, experience or qualifications that provide suitable preparation for this qualification has been provided by the Qualification Design Team (QDT) as guidance only.

As these are advanced awards with recognised levels of demand it is recommended that the learner has a good level of general education and in particular good communication skills. This may be demonstrated through a pre-assessment interview or by the learner's existing qualifications, for example SQA qualifications at a minimum of SCQF level 6 and/or other equivalent qualification such as the NEBDN National Certificate or qualifications from another awarding body.

The qualifications can be taken on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Specific access requirements

Learners may directly access Year 2 of the HND if they have already completed the following qualifications (or their equivalent)*:

- SVQ 3 in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7
- PDA in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7
- HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing

*for example, NVQ in Dental Nursing at level 3; VRQ in Dental Nursing; National Examining Board for Dental Nurses (NEBDN) National Certificate.

All learners must have achieved the HNC Graded Unit 1, regardless of the access route used.

Centres must ensure that any units offered as part of the HND which have access requirements that state that the learner should be registered with the GDC are only delivered to those learners who have that status.

Grandparent clause

There is also scope for accreditation of prior learning (APL) as an articulation opportunity into the second year of this award. Learners who are registered with the GDC via the grandparenting clause may make applications to articulate into the second year of the HND programme. It is the responsibility of each individual Centre to consider the learners suitability for this, and it is strongly recommended that the HNC Graded Unit 1 is used as a tool for benchmarking their eligibility.

4.1 Core Skills entry profile

The Core Skill entry profile provides a summary of the associated assessment activities that exemplify why a particular level has been recommended for this qualification. The information would be used to identify if additional learning support needs to be put in place for learners whose Core Skills profile is below the recommended entry level or whether learners should be encouraged to do an alternative level or learning programme.

For this reason, the level stated should be reflective of the focus of the qualification which is likely to require a certain level of ability in one or two of the Core Skills. Learners will naturally use and develop aspects of all five Core Skills as they work through the units making up the qualification through teaching and learning approaches which require to be mapped in the next section.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Communication	5	Verbal interactions with colleagues and patients, written record keeping and treatment planning.
Numeracy	3	Payment processing, charting and instrument reading.
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	5	Electronic appointment systems, possible use of online portfolio and assessment, developing high level research skills.

Core Skill	Recommended SCQF entry profile	Associated assessment activities
Problem Solving	4	Understanding theory and ability to relate this to practice, overcoming issues as they arise and advising on improvements.
Working with Others	5	Underpinning skill required of all DCP, fundamental in the majority of the practice units.

5. Additional benefits of the qualification in meeting employer needs

This qualification was designed to meet a specific purpose and what follows are details on how that purpose has been met through mapping of the units to the aims of the qualification. Through meeting the aims, additional value has been achieved by linking the unit standards with those defined in national occupational standards and/or trade or professional body requirements. In addition, significant opportunities exist for learners to develop the more generic skill, known as Core Skills through doing this qualification.

5.1 Mapping of qualification aims to units

Note: For details of the aims, see section 3.1 General aims of the qualification and section 3.2 Specific aims of the qualification.

The HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing

Unit code	Unit title	General aims	Specific aims
J8TE 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(a), (b), (h), 5, 6
J8TF 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(a), (c), (h), 5, 6
J8TH 34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(a), (e), (h), 5, 6
J8TG 34	Dental Radiography	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(a), (d), (h), 5, 6
J8W8 04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 3, 4(i), 5, 6
J95K 34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
J8W9 04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(i), 5, 6
J8W0 04	Provide Basic Life Support	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(f), 5, 6
J8W3 04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(c), 5, 6
J8VY 04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4(a), 5, 6
DF4E 34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
H1F0 34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 5, 6

5.2 The HND in Dental Nursing

Unit code	Unit title	General aims	Specific aims
FN3P 35	Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	1, 2, 3, 4	1(b), 2, 3, 4
J11R 36	Research in Dental Practice	1, 2, 3, 4	1(e), 2, 3, 4
J1SK 35	Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	1, 2, 3, 4	1(c), 2, 3, 4
H5WT 35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	1, 2, 3, 4	1(a), 2, 3, 4
H8P9 35	Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	1, 2, 3, 4	1(d), 2, 3, 4
J2F5 35	Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3, 4

5.3   Mapping of National Occupational Standards (NOS) and or or trade body standards

Across the mandatory and optional sections of the framework, the HNC in Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing contains 10 units devised by Skills for Health that make up the SVQ 3 in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7.

Please refer to the SVQ Dental Nursing webpage on SQA's website for information on units, Core Skills and the assessment strategy.

SQA code	SSC code	Title
J8VY 04	SFHOH34	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals
J8W0 04	SFHCHS36	Provide Basic Life Support
J8W1 04	SFHOH1	Prepare and Maintain Safe Working Practices in Clinical Dental Environments
J8W2 04	SFHOH2	Provide Information and Support to Individuals on Oral Health
J8W3 04	SFHOH3	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures
J8W4 04	SFHOH4	Contribute to Producing Dental Radiographic Images
J8W5 04	SFHOH5	Provide Chairside Support During Periodontal and Restorative Procedures
J8W6 04	SFHOH6	Provide Chairside Support During Prosthetic Procedures
J8W8 04	SFHOH7	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures
J8W9 04	SFHOH8	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures

The NOS have also been mapped to the GDC's Safe Practitioner Framework (SPF). The Safe Practitioner: A framework of behaviours and outcomes for dental professional education.

The framework distinguishes areas where education providers are expected to monitor behaviours over time rather than use formal assessments as evidence of meeting the requirement. Added to this, the terminology used within the framework conveys the intent of a behaviour or outcomes.

The framework includes additional content that has been added to strengthen learning in specific areas including equality, diversity and inclusion, cultural competence, mental health and wellbeing, insight, sustainability and complaints handling.

The framework ensures that the clinical knowledge and skills included are specific to the scope of practice of each professional group. Most of the behaviours and learning outcomes for the interpersonal and emotional skills, professionalism and self-management domains are common across all professional groups.

The HNC framework also includes the four HN Units which form the PDA in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7. These have been mapped to the Skills for Health National Occupational Standards (NOS).

Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards (NOS) codes
J8TE 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	SFHOH1, SFHOH3, SFHOH5, SFHOH6, SFHOH7, SFHOH8, SFHOH34
J8TF 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	SFHOH2, SFHOH3, SFHOH4, SFHOH3, SFHOH5, SFHOH6, SFHOH7, SFHOH8
J8TG 34	Dental Radiography	SFHOH1, SFHOH3, SFHOH4,

Unit code	Unit title	National Occupational Standards (NOS) codes
J8TH 34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	SFHOH2, SFHOH3, SFHOH4, SFHOH3, SFHOH5, SFHOH6, SFHOH7, SFHOH8

5.4 Mapping of Core Skills development opportunities across the qualifications

Core Skill Communication components: Written (Reading), Written (Writing), Oral

Unit code	Unit title	Communication components
J8TE 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8TF 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8TH 34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8TG 34	Dental Radiography	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8W8 04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J95K 34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral

Unit code	Unit title	Communication components
J8W9 04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8W0 04	Provide Basic Life Support	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8W3 04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J8VY 04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
DF4E 34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
H1F0 34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
FN3P 35	Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral

Unit code	Unit title	Communication components
J11R 36	Research in Dental Practice	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J1SK 35	Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
H5WT 35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
H8P9 35	Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral
J2F5 35	Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	Written (Reading) Written (Writing) Oral

Core Skill Numeracy components: Using Number, Using Graphical Information

Unit code	Unit title	Numeracy components
J8TE 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	Using Graphical Information
J8TF 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	Using Graphical Information
J8TH 34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	Using Graphical Information
J8TG 34	Dental Radiography	Using Graphical Information
J8W8 04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	Using Graphical Information
J95K 34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	Using Number Using Graphical Information
J8W9 04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	Using Graphical Information
J8W0 04	Provide Basic Life Support	Using Graphical Information
J8W3 04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	Using Graphical Information
J8VY 04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	Using Number Using Graphical Information
DF4E 34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	Using Number Using Graphical Information
H1F0 34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	Using Graphical Information
FN3P 35	Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	Using Graphical Information

Unit code	Unit title	Numeracy components
J11R 36	Research in Dental Practice	Using Graphical Information
J1SK 35	Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	Using Graphical Information
H5WT 35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	Using Graphical Information
H8P9 35	Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	Using Number Using Graphical Information
J2F5 35	Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	Using Number Using Graphical Information

Core Skill Information and Communication Technology (ICT) components:

Accessing Information, Providing or Creating Information

Unit code	Unit title	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) components
J8TE 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J8TF 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J8TH 34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J8TG 34	Dental Radiography	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J8W8 04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J95K 34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J8W9 04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J8W0 04	Provide Basic Life Support	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information

Unit code	Unit title	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) components
J8W3 04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J8VY 04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
DF4E 34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
H1F0 34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
FN3P 35	Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J11R 36	Research in Dental Practice	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J1SK 35	Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
H5WT 35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
H8P9 35	Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information
J2F5 35	Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	Accessing Information Providing or Creating Information

Core Skill Problem Solving components: Critical Thinking, Planning and Organising, Reviewing and Evaluating

Unit code	Unit title	Problem Solving components
J8TE 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8TF 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8TH 34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8TG 34	Dental Radiography	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8W8 04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J95K 34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating

Unit code	Unit title	Problem Solving components
J8W9 04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8W0 04	Provide Basic Life Support	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8W3 04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J8VY 04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
DF4E 34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
H1F0 34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
FN3P 35	Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating

Unit code	Unit title	Problem Solving components
J11R 36	Research in Dental Practice	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J1SK 35	Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
H5WT 35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
H8P9 35	Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating
J2F5 35	Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	Critical Thinking Planning and Organising Reviewing and Evaluating

Core Skill Working with Others components: Working Co-operatively with Others, Reviewing Co-operative Contribution

Unit code	Unit title	Working with Others components
J8TE 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8TF 34	Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8TH 34	Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8TG 34	Dental Radiography	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8W8 04	Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J95K 34	Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8W9 04	Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8W0 04	Provide Basic Life Support	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J8W3 04	Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution

Unit code	Unit title	Working with Others components
J8VY 04	Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
DF4E 34	Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H1F0 34	Creating a Culture of Customer Care	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
FN3P 35	Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J11R 36	Research in Dental Practice	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J1SK 35	Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H5WT 35	Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
H8P9 35	Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution
J2F5 35	Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	Working Co-operatively with Others Reviewing Co-operative Contribution

5.5 Assessment strategy for the qualifications

Unit title	Assessment: Outcome 1	Assessment: Outcome 2	Assessment: Outcome 3
Dental Nursing: Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.
Dental Nursing: Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.
Dental Nursing: Prevention and Management of Common Oral Diseases	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.
Dental Radiography	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.	PDA in Dental Nursing SOLAR closed-book assessments.
Provide Chairside Support During Endodontic Procedures	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Online SOLAR assessment.
Oral Health Care: Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 1	Assignment	Assignment	Assignment
Provide Chairside Support During Extraction and Minor Oral Surgery Procedures	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.

Unit title	Assessment: Outcome 1	Assessment: Outcome 2	Assessment: Outcome 3
Provide Basic Life Support	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.
Provide Chairside Support During Oral Health Assessment Procedures	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.
Maintain Personal and Professional Practice for Dental Care Professionals	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.	SVQ Portfolio Evidence — Observation, Reflective Account, Personal Statement, Closed-book Online SOLAR assessment.
Developing Skills for Personal Effectiveness	Holistic assessment based on an Action Plan, Case Study and Evaluation.	Holistic assessment based on an Action Plan, Case Study and Evaluation.	Holistic assessment based on an Action Plan, Case Study and Evaluation.
Creating a Culture of Customer Care	Holistic assessment based on the learners' analysis and evaluation of customer care in an organisation.	Holistic assessment based on the learners' analysis and evaluation of customer care in an organisation.	Holistic assessment based on the learners' analysis and evaluation of customer care in an organisation.

Unit title	Assessment: Outcome 1	Assessment: Outcome 2	Assessment: Outcome 3
Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models	Completion of a minimum of 20 patient cases, working to the prescription of a dentist. The required performance evidence could be gathered by observation, witness testimony, reflective log and product evidence. The cases should be observed by the dentist.	Completion of a minimum of 20 patient cases, working to the prescription of a dentist. The required performance evidence could be gathered by observation, witness testimony, reflective log and product evidence. The cases should be observed by the dentist.	Practical exercises: simulation responding to medical emergencies.
Research in Dental Practice	Evidence-based assignment of around 2,000 words.	Evidence-based assignment of around 2,000 words.	Evidence-based assignment of around 2,000 words.
Managing Quality Improvement in a Dental Practice	Portfolio of evidence and a report.	Portfolio of evidence and a report.	Portfolio of evidence and a report.
Dental Nursing: Oral Health Promotion and Dental Public Health	Production of a behavioural change case study.	Report	Evaluation of a behavioural change case study.
Oral Health Care: Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment	Integrated assignment.	Integrated assignment.	Integrated assignment.
Dental Nursing: Graded Unit 2	Investigation	Investigation	Investigation

6. Guidance on approaches to delivery and assessment

Although Higher National Qualifications are traditionally offered by the further education sector, they may also be offered by other SQA approved centres such as vocational training providers and some employers.

This qualification offers flexibility in its approach as learners holding other forms of dental nursing qualification and/or work experience may gain access to the HND following assessment of APL and achievement of the HNC Graded Unit 1.

Centres must retain evidence of APL as this is subject to external quality assurance.

The structure of the qualification allows for a degree of flexibility in its delivery. This will enable centres to tailor the selection of optional units to suit the needs of learners and meet local demand.

6.1 Sequencing or integration of units

6.1.1 Year 1 — HNC

Centres will determine their own delivery plan based on the needs of learners, the number of terms or semesters employed by the centre and the mode of delivery (that is, full-time, part-time or blended).

It is anticipated that the workplace assessed (SVQ) units will be achieved concurrently with the knowledge-based units and that evidence of competence will be drawn from work practice.

Graded Unit 1 allows for the knowledge and skills gained from the mandatory units to be applied in the context of a dental nursing project. As such, it would tend to be delivered in the second and third terms to allow learners to gather appropriate evidence.

Delivery of the Workplace (SVQ) Units will be in the learner's workplace or placement where evidence of competence will be drawn from real work practice. The Skills for Health Assessment Strategy applies to the delivery and assessment of all the SVQ Units.

It is acknowledged that learners will achieve competence at different paces and the sequencing of units may be affected by this.

6.1.2 Year 2 — HND

As with Year 1, the delivery sequence will be determined by individual centres based on practice within the centre, timetabling and learner need.

Year 2 focuses on the development of specialist and clinical skills and knowledge in areas such as dental impression taking, research in dental practice, managing quality improvement, oral health promotion and managing health and safety in a dental environment.

Delivery of Graded Unit 2 should be timetabled to begin no later than midway through the session to allow learners sufficient time to gather the necessary evidence.

The selection of optional units will be determined by learner and employment needs and their delivery integrated with the mandatory units appropriately by the centre.

6.2 Recognition of prior learning

SQA recognises that learners gain knowledge and skills acquired through formal, non-formal and informal learning contexts.

In some instances, a full group award may be achieved through the recognition of prior learning. However, it is unlikely that a learner would have the appropriate prior learning and experience to meet all the requirements of a full group award.

The recognition of prior learning may **not** be used as a method of assessing in the following types of units and assessments:

- HN Graded Units.

- Course and/or external assessments.

- Other integrative assessment units (which may or not be graded).

- Certain types of assessment instruments where the standard may be compromised by not using the same assessment method outlined in the unit.

- Where there is an existing requirement for a licence to practice.

- Where there are specific health and safety requirements.

- Where there are regulatory, professional or other statutory requirements.

- Where otherwise specified in an assessment strategy.

More information and guidance on the *Recognition of Prior Learning* (RPL) may be found on our website: SQA Home Page (www.sqa.org.uk).

The following sub-sections outline how existing SQA units may contribute to this group award. Additionally, they also outline how this group award may be recognised for professional and articulation purposes.

6.2.1 Articulation and/or progression

Although no formal agreements are in place, learners who successfully achieve the HND in Dental Nursing may be considered for acceptance to the BSc in Dental Nursing awarded by the University of the West of Scotland.

6.3 Opportunities for e-assessment

SQA SOLAR has developed online assessments for several of the units in this qualification.

6.4 Support materials

A list of existing Assessment Support Packs (ASPs) is available to view on SQA's website: Internal Assessment Support Materials (www.sqa.org.ukorinternal assessment support materials).

6.5 Resource requirements

Learners must have access to a dental educational environment or workplace where each unit can be completed with the support of a lecturer or assessor.

Staff involved with teaching and assessment must be registered with the GDC and have appropriate knowledge and experience of dental nursing. Please refer to the unit specifications for specific guidance on specialist resources, instruments or equipment.

As the closed-book unit assessments are delivered via SOLAR, it is strongly recommended that centres provide their learners with appropriate devices to ensure that the minimum SOLAR system requirements are met. Where other devices are used this may affect learners access to assistive technology features.

7.   General information for centres

Equality and inclusion

The unit specifications making up this group award have been designed to ensure that there are no unnecessary barriers to learning or assessment. The individual needs of learners will be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment methods or considering alternative evidence.

Further advice can be found on our website:

SQA Assessment Arrangements (www.sqa.org.ukorassessmentarrangements).

Internal and external verification

All assessments used within these qualifications should be internally verified, using the appropriate policy within the centre and the guidelines set by SQA.

External verification will be carried out by SQA to ensure that internal assessment is within the national guidelines for these qualifications.

Further information on internal and external verification can be found in SQA's Guide to Assessment Guide to Assessment (www.sqa.org.ukorfiles_cccorGuide_To_Assessment.pdf)

8. Glossary of terms

Embedded Core Skills is where the assessment evidence for the unit also includes full evidence for complete Core Skill or Core Skill components. A learner successfully completing the unit will be automatically certificated for the Core Skill. (This depends on the unit having been successfully audited and validated for Core Skills certification.)

Finish date: The end of a group award's lapsing period is known as the finish date. After the finish date, the group award will no longer be live and the following applies:

- Learners may not be entered for the group award.
- the group award will continue to exist only as an archive record on the Awards Processing System (APS).

Graded unit: Graded units assess learners' ability to integrate what they have learned while working towards the units of the group award. Their purpose is to add value to the group award, making it more than the sum of its parts, and to encourage learners to retain and adapt their skills and knowledge.

Lapsing date: When a group award is entered into its lapsing period, the following will apply:

- the group award will be deleted from the relevant catalogue.
- the group award specification will remain until the qualification reaches its finish date at which point it will be removed from SQA's website and archived.
- no new centres may be approved to offer the group award.
- centres should only register learners whom they expect to complete the group award during the defined lapsing period.

SQA credit value: The credit value allocated to a unit gives an indication of the contribution the unit makes to an SQA group award. An SQA credit value of 1 given to an SQA unit represents approximately 40 hours of programmed learning, teaching and assessment.

SCQF: The Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework (SCQF) provides the national common framework for describing all relevant programmes of learning and qualifications in Scotland. SCQF terminology is used throughout this guide to refer to credits and levels. For further information on the SCQF visit the SCQF website at www.scqf.org.uk.

SCQF credit points: SCQF credit points provide a means of describing and comparing the amount of learning that is required to complete a qualification at a given level of the Framework. One National Unit credit is equivalent to 6 SCQF credit points. One National Unit credit at Advanced Higher and one Higher National Unit credit (irrespective of level) is equivalent to 8 SCQF credit points.

SCQF levels: The level a qualification is assigned within the framework is an indication of how hard it is to achieve. The SCQF covers 12 levels of learning. HNCs and HNDs are available at SCQF levels 7 and 8, respectively. Higher National Units will normally be at levels 6 to 9 and graded units will be at levels 7 and 8. National Qualification Group Awards are available at SCQF levels 2 to 6 and will normally be made up of National Units which are available from SCQF levels 2 to 7.

Unit: Units contain vocational or subject content and are designed to test a specific set of knowledge and skills.

Signposted Core Skills: Refers to opportunities to develop Core Skills arise in learning and teaching but are not automatically certificated.

History of changes

It is anticipated that changes will take place during the life of the qualification and this section will record these changes. This document is the latest version and incorporates the changes summarised below. Centres are advised to check SQA's APS Navigator to confirm they are using the up-to-date qualification structure.

Please note: Where a unit is revised by another unit:

- No new centres may be approved to offer the unit which has been revised.

- Centres should only register learners for the unit which has been revised where they are expected to complete the unit before its finish date.

Version number	Description	Date

Acknowledgement

SQA acknowledges the valuable contribution that the Dental Educational Sector in Scotland have made to the development of this qualification.

Template version: February 2025

9. General information for learners

This information will help you decide whether this is the qualification for you by explaining what the qualification is about, what you should know or be able to do before you start, what you will need to do during the qualification and opportunities for further learning and employment.

The HNC and HND in Dental Nursing form part of a suite of qualifications for this sector that includes entry level NPAs at SCQF level 5 and 6, the SVQ and PDA in Dental Nursing at SCQF level 7 and a range of other specialist PDAs at SCQF level 8 and 9.

The HNC and HND awards consist of mandatory and optional units covering various aspects of dental nursing.

In Year 1, you will undertake HN Units covering principles of infection control, oral health assessment and treatment planning and the management of plaque related diseases.

You will also undertake units from the SVQ in Dental Nursing which will be assessed in your workplace or placement covering areas such as health and safety, chairside support, preparation of the clinical environment and basic life support skills.

Successful completion of Year 1 will:

- provide you with suitable occupational skills and knowledge in dental nursing to enable you to identify future opportunities for career progression
- allow you to progress to Year 2 of the HND — **or**
- allow you to exit at this stage with an HNC

In Year 2, you will have the opportunity to gain more specialised clinical skills and knowledge aligned with the GDCs Scope of Practice. This will be of particular interest to you if you are a qualified Dental Nurse who wishes to demonstrate continuing professional development (CPD) and to gain a higher level of qualification. It will also allow you to develop transferable skills in management, training and development,

quality management, health and safety in the dental environment and personal effectiveness.

Successful completion of Year 2 will:

♦ provide you with the opportunity to further develop your skills and knowledge in specialist oral health care areas.

♦ provide you with the opportunity to work as a dental nurse with 'additional skills' in line with the GDCs Scope of Practice.

♦ allow you to achieve the HND in Dental Nursing.

♦ offer an opportunity to progress to higher education.

You must be registered with the GDC prior to undertaking some of the more specialised units within the HND. This means you must have achieved both the SVQ and PDA in Dental Nursing (or their equivalent from other awarding bodies).

Throughout the qualification, you will have the opportunity to further develop your Core Skills in Communication, Working with Others, Problem Solving, Numeracy and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

A variety of assessment models will be used. These include assessor observation, extended response questions and case studies, online question papers including multiple-choice questions, and portfolios (online or paper-based) used to gather workplace evidence.