Higher National Qualifications

Qualification Verification Summary Report 2019
Dental Surgery Assistant/Dental Nursing

Introduction

The units verified this session were:

H9R7 34   Principles in the Management of Plaque Related Diseases
H9R8 34   Dental radiography
H9R9 34   Principles of Oral Health Assessment and Treatment Planning
H9R8 34   Principles of Infection Prevention and Control in the Dental Environment
H485 34   Local decontamination of Re-useable Instruments
GH75 48   Delivering Oral Health Interventions
GJ6K 48   Intravenous Sedation for Dental Nurses
H0AH 36   Dental Radiography — Operator
H8P9 35   Managing Health and Safety in a Dental Environment

HA02 34   Graded Unit 1
HA03 35   Graded Unit 2

H66M 33   Health and Safety in the Dental or Medical Reception Area
H49P 33   Customer Care
H66L 33   Reflective Practice in a Dental or Medical Environment

HH7L 45   Introduction to Safe Working Practice
GP5M 48   PDA Supporting the Healthcare Team in the Workplace
G8RL 48   PDA Dental Managers
F1XL 35   Managing a Dental Environment
DP7M 04   Develop Productive Working Relationships
DR43 04   Develop a Customer Focused Organisation
F20M 34   Presentation Skills for Dental Managers
HE3D 46   Fitness to Practice

All centres received a 'high confidence' rating.

Category 2: Resources

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

All centres had evidence of ongoing reviews of assessment environment, equipment and reference and learning materials. Regular standardisation meetings were held by all centres, facilitating discussion and agreement between assessors and internal verifiers.

Category 3: Candidate support

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

All centres had evidence of candidates' development needs and how prior achievements matched the requirements of the awards undertaken. The format of recruitment and entry requirements varied depending on the qualification or 'stand alone' unit offered. Full-time candidates complete college application forms and attend interviews.

There was good evidence of support for candidates who required learning support, whether this was provided through college specialist departments, or by training providers organising assessment by educational psychologists. There was also documented support for candidates once learning needs had been analysed.

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

Centres provide their candidates with taught classes or tutorials throughout the duration of their qualification. All centres had schemes of work, timetables, or master folders with scheduled contact sessions whether this was full-time or part-time qualifications, or single units.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

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

All centres had documented assessment and verification procedures and comprehensive records were kept. Minutes of standardisation meetings showed how the procedures were implemented and monitored to ensure consistency.

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

Clear polices were in place in most centres. Almost all centres used a clear tracking plan for internal verification activity. Formal and informal internal verification and standardisation meetings took place, which supported the internal verification process. All centres had comprehensive strategies or marking guides and these were seen to be effective in standardising procedures and the quality of decisions made.

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

At all centres closed-book invigilated examinations were required for the externally-marked SQA Dental Nursing PDA assessment. This is also available on SQA SOLAR, and more sites are making use of this form of assessment. This is exceptionally secure, as candidates are issued with a secure key code and the assessment is only available to start and finish on the allocated day and time. This also cuts out the need for handling of papers and posting on to SQA.

Individual HN units and PDAs along with graded unit work included declaration statements from each candidate.

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

All assessors were familiar with the unit specification requirements, and portfolios show evidence of consistent judgement of assessment decisions. One centre highlighted challenges with HA02 34 Graded Unit 1, when using the centre-devised standardised marking guide. A recommendation was made that a review of the marking guide was carried out.

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

All centres were aware of the SQA retention policy and many centres retain evidence for a longer period than required.

Criterion 4.9: Feedback from qualification verifiers must be disseminated to staff and used to inform assessment practice.

All centres had evidence of standardisation meetings where feedback from qualification verifiers was disseminated. This was also apparent in centre policies.

Specific areas for development

The following areas for development were reported during session 2018–19:

♦ In one centre it was recommended that all the candidates' SQA SOLAR assessments are cross-marked prior to submission to SQA for a final mark.

♦ An observation of the 'initial competency' and post-assessment strategies employed for HN unit H0AH 36 should be considered. It was a concern that one centre was over-assessing competency and unnecessary emission of radiation in the use of 'phantom heads'. This is not a requirement of the H0AH 36 unit specification and, whilst the centre has the right to set criteria for programmes, the health and safety implications attributed to radiation exposure should be recognised.

♦ Centres to use Turnitin or similar technology to strengthen the requirement that evidence presented for assessment is the candidate's own work.