



**Higher National Qualifications
Qualification Verification Summary Report 2021**

Dental Nursing

Verification group number: 97

Introduction

No verification activity took place in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions. Due to the SQA agreement with colleges, only three external training provider centres/sites were visited for HN units.

The units verified in the 2021 session were:

HT8T 35 Dental Nursing: Inhalation Sedation
GJ6K 48 Intravenous Sedation for Dental Nurses
H485 34 Local Decontamination of Re-usable Instruments

In all instances, the delivery of the awards was paused due to lockdown and the suspension of the dental services, and then restarted once services were resumed.

Verification was carried out by virtual Teams meetings, and the centres had uploaded evidence to the SQA evidence hub. All centres/sites 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.

There were on-going reviews of assessment and learning and teaching materials. Written questions were reviewed annually. There were version controls on assessment materials, and records of updating documents in the centre standardisation meetings and pre-delivery checklists.

Centres provided candidates with links to referencing materials from the current regulations and up-to-date legislation.

A Quality Manual folder gave reference to site selection checklists and the need for the NHS managers who identify the candidates for the award to ensure that they work in an adequate environment and would have access to patients within a suitable learning environment.

Category 3: Candidate support

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

Candidates participate in an initial assessment that helps to identify any specific learning needs or barriers. It gives an opportunity to consider whether additional academic support is required.

To support and enable reasonable adjustment in assessments, where appropriate a centre refers the learner for an educational psychologist.

In the centre visited for the Inhalation Sedation award, it is only available to 'in house' NHS staff and due to the course being led by the requirements of the service. Managers who put forward the candidates ensure that it matches the development needs of the individual, and

that they will be well supported in terms of the learning environment and access to patients. Any issues requiring reasonable adjustments would involve the individual being referred to NHS Occupational Health for advice.

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

Candidates interviewed by telephone confirmed that they had regular contact with their assessors throughout the award.

There was evidence of continuous clear and concise feedback to the candidates in the portfolios.

Candidates were given a timetable with planned study days in advance. However, in all instances there was an interruption and delay in progress for the candidates undertaking these awards due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on the specific dental services.

Candidates confirmed that before and from the unit delivery restart, assessors were available when they needed support. Assessors confirmed that they had scheduled contact with candidates.

Category 4: Internal assessment and verification

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

All centres/sites had comprehensive standardisation meetings that included reference to the centre's internal assessment and verification procedures. The centres use a variety of standardised assessment methods to assess the candidate's competence. It was reported that, throughout the portfolios sampled, the assessor and verifiers implement the centre's assessment and verification procedures consistently and effectively.

One centre had a quality manual outlining the assessment and verification procedures for the qualification. This follows SQA's three-step process. This was further evidenced by minutes of meetings and mapping documents. Due to the course and Inhalation services being 'paused' for COVID-19, the candidates are only now starting to complete evidence, and not all internal verification has yet been implemented.

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

The centres use a range of assessment methods throughout the award to meet the learning outcomes and support the candidates to build up a portfolio of evidence.

The assessment instruments viewed for the various outcomes meet the requirements of being valid, reliable, practicable and fair. In most sites the log sheets used are the SQA templates.

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

All centres/sites candidates are required to sign a plagiarism declaration to confirm the evidence they produce is their own work. This was confirmed through candidate discussions.

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

The reports indicated that evidence was accurately and consistently judged by assessors against SQA's requirements. IV sampling of assessment decisions are in line with centres' IV strategies.

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

All centres/sites were aware and able to evidence retention in line with SQA requirements.

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

There was evidence that staff involved in the awards all attended QV feedback at the end of the sampling/verification activity. Written procedures confirmed the process.