



August 2021

Subject guidance for internally assessed qualifications in 2021–22

Group award titles:	HNC Oral Health Care HND Dental Nursing PDA Dental Nursing
Group award codes:	GL64 15 GP80 16 G9C4 47

Introduction

This subject-specific supplementary guidance has been produced to assist centres to deliver the HNC Oral Health Care, the HND Dental Nursing and the PDA Dental Nursing and to find ways to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and the subsequent government restrictions. It recognises challenges experienced in the sector while supporting achievement of the qualification. Please read this document in conjunction with the HN Graded Unit Guidance issued by SQA in August 2021 which details the general principles for assessment in session 2021–22. Moreover, given that the qualification embeds the SVQ in Dental Nursing, please also read the Assessment Strategy for Dental Nursing (Appendix 1) and SQA’s Guide to Assessment.

Summary

This document provides information on the following:

- ◆ Changes to framework
- ◆ Guidance on delivery and assessment
- ◆ Unit-specific advice — Appendix 1

Changes to framework

We have added Legal Protection of NHSS Patient Data (FG6A 35) to the mandatory section of the framework as an alternative ‘either/or’ to Dental Impressions for Working or Study Models (FN3P 35).

Delivering and assessing the HNC/HND

The qualifications manager and qualifications officer for the sector have met virtually several times since March 2021 with the external verifiers and lecturers/tutors from each of the approved centres delivering dental qualifications.

SQA understands the particular challenges for the sector, given the mandatory requirements for practical skills in the work-based SVQ and many of the HN units.

With this in mind, we have agreed a plan to deliver the theory/underpinning knowledge and understanding in Year 1 (HNC), delaying the practical delivery and assessment until Year 2 (HND) when dental services will, we hope, be returning to normal.

The change to the framework detailed above supports this delivery model.

Guidance on specific units

We recognise that the learning environment and social landscape remains very challenging, with more remote and blended-learning approaches and significantly less opportunity for face-to-face delivery and assessment. This will have a direct impact on the qualifications, as several units involve practical elements.

Further information on recommended alternative assessment of **HN units** likely to be impacted is included in a spreadsheet as *Appendix 1*.

SVQ units must be delivered and assessed in accordance with the Skills for Health Assessment Strategy. SQA published extensive extra information to assist centres with their delivery of these units in its document *Supplementary guidance for SVQ Dental Nursing approved centres to support learners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic*.

Centres can continue to deliver the four HN knowledge units which comprise the PDA in Dental Nursing using online platforms. SQA has produced additional summative unit assessments, available on Solar, for centres to use when assessing their learners.

The current GDC and SQA position is that, given the continued restrictions around COVID-19, these summative assessments will be used in June 2022 in lieu of the traditional external assessment. Plans for the December 2022 assessment will be reviewed in the coming months.

Please note, as these Solar assessments are intended for use as a replacement for the external exam, centres must treat them with the utmost confidentiality.

This guidance is subject to change and will be updated as required on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions, please contact qualification.development@sqa.org.uk.