

Next Gen: HN unit specification

Advanced Depilation (SCQF level 8)

Unit code: JNYS 47

SCQF level: 8 (8 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 gives learners the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance their waxing techniques and to understand the latest strip and non-strip waxing methods for sensitive areas, including the chest, back, abdomen, shoulders, intimate regions, nostrils and ears. Learners deepen their understanding of specific professional waxing products, highlighting the benefits and effects of specific key ingredients.

They apply this knowledge to:

- create individualised treatment plans
- provide aftercare guidance
- recommend appropriate at-home products
- evaluate the effectiveness of the treatments

Throughout the unit, learners explore various topics, such as:

- the anatomy of the skin and the pilosebaceous unit
- different hair types and classifications
- the causes of hair growth
- the hair growth cycle
- absolute and relative contra-indications
- pre- and post-treatment advice
- adverse reactions
- contra-actions

Learners master advanced pre- and post-treatment application and removal techniques for unwanted hair in sensitive areas. They assess clients' skin conditions and hair types to create, prepare, and administer tailored treatments, while also providing personalised aftercare, homecare and product recommendations. This includes preparing the work area and equipment in accordance with salon procedures, consulting with clients to design customised treatment plans, preparing clients for procedures, and performing treatments using both strip and non-strip techniques.

Learners follow established treatment protocols, product guidelines, and current health and safety regulations. They work with a diverse clientele to understand different skin and hair types and effectively apply and remove wax products.

Throughout the unit, learners demonstrate a thorough understanding of and strict adherence to current health and safety regulations. They also exhibit hygienic practices in the salon and adhere to dress codes that reflect salon and industry standards. Effective communication and consultation techniques are a key focus, and learners develop essential interpersonal skills, while ensuring sensitivity when working with clients.

The unit is an optional unit in Higher National Certificate (HNC) Beauty Therapy. Learners can also study it on a stand-alone basis.

Before they start the unit, learners should have prior knowledge of depilation techniques at a minimum of SCQF level 5 and/or have completed the Composite Beauty Skills (SCQF level 7) unit.

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 consolidate and hone their waxing skills, progress to further study and/or pursue a career in beauty therapy.

This unit contributes to overall progression in the subject area.

Unit outcomes

Learners who complete this unit can:

1. identify and describe the essential anatomy knowledge relating to advanced depilation techniques
2. describe the absolute and relative contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions relating to advanced depilation techniques
3. prepare for advanced depilation treatments using strip and non-strip techniques, following health, safety and hygiene practices
4. consult and propose an advanced depilation treatment plan
5. perform an advanced intimate depilation treatment using strip or non-strip techniques
6. perform an advanced depilation treatment using strip or non-strip techniques
7. provide aftercare and homecare advice and prescribe retail products for the client
8. evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment

Evidence requirements

Learners must produce product and performance evidence that reflects SCQF level 7 and industry standards.

You can deliver and assess outcomes 1 and 2 holistically under closed-book conditions. Learners produce evidence independently, under controlled and supervised conditions, to ensure authenticity and the integrity of the assessment process.

Remediation is not permitted for the closed-book paper. Learners must achieve a **minimum pass mark of 70%** on their first attempt to successfully meet the requirements of the knowledge component.

You should use an assessor checklist to assess the learner's competence for each evidence requirement.

Outcome 1: identify and describe essential anatomy knowledge relating to advanced depilation techniques

Learners must:

- identify the skin structure:
 - epidermis
 - dermis and subcutaneous layer, including the five epidermal layers and the cellular functions taking place in these layers
 - the structures in the dermis and subcutaneous layers
- identify the pilosebaceous unit:
 - hair follicle
 - hair bulb
 - dermal papilla
 - sebaceous gland
 - arrector pili muscle
- describe the different hair classifications:
 - straight (type 1)
 - wavy (type 2)
 - curly (type 3)
 - coily (type 4)
- describe the different hair textures:
 - fine
 - coarse
 - thick
- describe the pilosebaceous hair growth cycle:
 - anagen (growth phase)
 - catagen (transitional phase)
 - telogen (resting phase)

- identify anatomy of the female genitalia:
 - mons pubis
 - labia minora
 - labia majora
 - perineum
 - anus
 - mucus membrane
 - clitoral hood
 - external urethral orifice
 - vaginal orifice

Outcome 2: describe the absolute and relative contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions relating to advanced depilation techniques

Learners must:

- describe the absolute and relative contra-indications to advanced depilation techniques
- describe the contra-actions and adverse reactions relating to advanced depilation techniques, and remedial actions required for each

Outcomes 3 to 8

The practical evidence should demonstrate the learner's ability to apply advanced depilation treatments.

Learners must carry out an observed practical performance on a minimum of **two** clients. Across these clients, learners must perform treatments covering **two intimate and two advanced waxing areas**. Multiple treatments on the same client are permitted.

You must assess outcomes 3 to 8 practically and holistically. You must complete an assessor observation checklist to record the performance, supported by a detailed client consultation record and treatment plan that the learner completes.

Outcome 3: prepare for advanced depilation treatments using strip and non-strip techniques, following health, safety and hygiene practices

Learners must:

- present themselves professionally and wear personal protective equipment (PPE)
- sterilise all metal tools and all work surfaces prior to use
- disinfect and protect the couch with fresh disposable coverings following each treatment
- prepare for two intimate and two advanced depilation treatments using strip or non-strip techniques, following health, safety and hygiene practices

Outcome 4: consult and propose an advanced depilation treatment plan

Learners must consider the following:

- absolute and relative contra-indications to treatment
- awareness of waxing code of practice, to include current age restrictions, and client's current medical history and medication
- client's current hair removal regime and treatment cadence
- client's concerns, expectations and desired outcomes

Learners must:

- develop and agree an advanced depilation treatment plan
- demonstrate good communication, interpersonal skills and sensitivity while working with clients
- explain the treatment process and physical sensation to the client
- discuss potential outcomes, contra-actions and adverse reactions

- discuss further treatment cadence
- obtain signed and informed consent from the client to meet legislative requirements

Outcome 5: perform an advanced intimate depilation treatment using strip or non-strip techniques

Learners must carry out an observed practical performance on a minimum of two clients on intimate areas.

Learners must:

- wash hands before applying gloves
- wear a clean apron and single-use gloves during the advanced depilation procedure
- select the appropriate treatment for hair type and classification
- prepare the client, including a skin sensitivity and/or thermal patch test. This should be carried out prior to every treatment
- carry out client preparation by providing modesty towels and disposable underwear
- pre-cleanse the client's treatment area
- consider modesty and client privacy throughout
- use sterilised scissors to trim any hair that is long or overgrown in the area prior to hair removal
- follow hygiene requirements in line with current industry standards to prevent cross-contamination and infection. Immediately dispose of the instruments used to apply the wax (such as a spatula) after completing the procedure (no double-dipping)
- apply the strip or non-strip in line with manufacturer's guidelines, in the correct angle and direction
- apply stretching, positioning and supporting of the client's skin during removal
- maintain good posture and working methods during the treatment to minimise fatigue and the risk of injury to themselves and others
- select the appropriate product for post-advanced depilation treatment

- ensure the client's treatment area is left free of wax and hair, in accordance with the intimate waxing treatment protocol
- complete the treatment within a commercially viable timeframe
- adhere to waste disposal procedures to meet legal requirements
- wash hands after removing gloves
- monitor the client during and post-treatment, considering client wellbeing, modesty and comfort
- recognise contra-actions, adverse reactions and skin tolerance

Outcome 6: perform an advanced depilation treatment using strip or non-strip techniques

Learners must carry out an observed practical performance on a minimum of two clients in advanced areas.

Learners must:

- wash hands before applying gloves
- wear a clean apron and single-use gloves during the advanced depilation procedure
- select the appropriate treatment for hair type and classification
- prepare the client, including a skin sensitivity and/or thermal patch test. This should be carried out prior to every treatment
- pre-cleanse the client's treatment area
- consider modesty and client privacy throughout
- use sterilised scissors to trim any hair that is long or overgrown in the area prior to hair removal
- follow hygiene requirements in line with current industry standards to prevent cross-contamination. Immediately dispose of the instrument used to apply the wax (such as a spatula) after completing the procedure (no double-dipping)
- apply the strip or non-strip in line with the manufacturer's guidelines, in the correct angle and direction
- apply stretching, positioning and supporting of the client's skin during removal

- maintain good posture and working methods during the treatment to minimise fatigue and the risk of injury to themselves and others
- ensure the client's treatment area is left free of wax and hair, in accordance with the advanced treatment protocol
- select the appropriate product for post advanced depilation treatment
- complete the treatment within a commercially viable timeframe
- adhere to waste disposal procedures to meet legal requirements
- wash hands after removing gloves
- monitor the client during and post-treatment, considering client wellbeing, modesty and comfort
- recognise contra-actions, adverse reactions and skin tolerance

Outcome 7: provide aftercare and homecare advice and prescribe retail products for the client

Learners must:

- provide aftercare and homecare advice to clients
- prescribe retail products and explain the frequency of use and how to apply
- advise on maintenance requirements and further treatments

Outcome 8: evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment

Learners must:

- obtain client feedback post-treatment
- evaluate the advanced depilation treatments and the degree of success achieved
- evaluate feedback from the client
- reflect on whether client objectives have been met
- consider how to use feedback to improve future practice and skills

Knowledge and skills

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skin structure: epidermis, dermis and subcutaneous layer, including the five epidermal layers • the cellular functions taking place in these layers • the structures in the dermis and subcutaneous layers • the pilosebaceous unit: hair follicle, hair bulb, dermal papilla, sebaceous gland, arrector pili muscle • hair classifications: straight (type 1), wavy (type 2), curly (type 3), coily (type 4) • hair texture: fine, course, thick • the pilosebaceous hair growth cycle: anagen (growth phase), catagen (transitional phase), telogen (resting phase) • anatomy of the female genitalia: mons pubis, labia minora, labia majora, perineum, anus, mucus membrane, clitoral hood, external urethral orifice, vaginal orifice 	<p>Outcome 1</p> <p>Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the skin and the pilosebaceous unit • identify the different hair classifications • describe the pilosebaceous hair growth cycle • identify anatomy of the female genitalia
<p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • absolute and relative contra-indications to advanced depilation techniques • contra-actions and adverse reactions relating to advanced depilation techniques 	<p>Outcome 2</p> <p>Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describe absolute and relative contra-indications to advanced depilation techniques • describe contra-actions and adverse reactions relating to advanced depilation techniques

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 3</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of strictly adhering to sanitation protocols to prevent cross-contamination and maintaining a clean working environment • the importance of professional self-management, PPE and personal presentation • PPE requirements (a clean apron and single-use gloves) • sterilisation protocols, including all metal tools and all work surfaces • how to disinfect and protect the couch and apply fresh disposable coverings following each treatment • how to prepare for strip and non-strip treatments for both intimate and non-intimate areas 	<p>Outcome 3</p> <p>Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare area, tools and equipment while strictly adhering to sanitation protocols to prevent cross-contamination and maintain a clean working environment • portray professional self-management, personal presentation, and use PPE
<p>Outcome 4</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • absolute and relative contra-indications to treatment • the waxing code of practice, including current age restrictions • the importance of good communication, empathy, and positive interpersonal skills when working with clients • the importance of knowing clients' current medical history and medication • the importance of knowing the client's current hair removal regime and treatment cadence 	<p>Outcome 4</p> <p>Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform a comprehensive consultation and devise a personalised treatment plan • demonstrate good communication and interpersonal skills, and sensitivity while working with clients

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 4 (continued) Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any limitations of results due to treatment history, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ tweezing ○ shaving ○ depilatory creams ○ electrical depilatory ○ abrasive mitts ○ electrical epilation ○ trimming • the importance of agreeing on an advanced depilation treatment plan with the client • the importance of explaining the treatment process and physical sensations to the client • potential outcomes, contra-actions and adverse reactions • advanced depilation treatment cadence • the legislative requirements of gaining signed, informed consent 	
<p>Outcome 5 Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intimate advanced depilation that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ removes hair from the genital and perianal areas of the body ○ goes beyond standard bikini line treatments ○ involves more sensitive and private areas ○ requires advanced training, strict hygiene protocols, and a high level of client care and professionalism 	<p>Outcome 5 Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform a pre-cleanse to the treatment area • select the appropriate treatment for the hair type and classification • prepare the client correctly for the treatment process • apply hygiene requirements in line with current industry standards to prevent cross-contamination • use PPE • trim hair, if applicable

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 5 (continued) Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variety of intimate advanced depilation objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ extended bikini ○ Hollywood ○ perianal ○ Brazilian ○ Las Vegas <p>(This is not an exhaustive list. As new advanced depilation treatment options emerge, you should update to reflect the latest in innovation and styles.)</p> • types of wax used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ strip ○ non-strip ○ roller wax ○ hot/hard wax ○ warm wax ○ cream wax ○ organic wax • the difference in temperature of strip and non-strip wax 	<p>Outcome 5 (continued) Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply the strip or non-strip in line with the manufacturer's guidelines, in a safe and methodical process • employ good posture and working methods • apply the wax at the appropriate angle, in accordance with the intimate advanced depilation treatment protocol • identify and address potential skin complications, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ingrown hairs ○ sensitive skin management • select the correct product for after the treatment • complete the treatment within a commercially viable timeframe • adhere to waste disposal procedures to meet legal requirements • deal with unforeseen circumstances, should they occur • recognise contra-actions and adverse reactions

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 5 (continued)</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common ingredients used for waxes, which can be combined in different variations and mixed with additional pigments to make the product smell or look more attractive, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ colophonium (brittle, translucent resin used for its sticky quality to bind to the hair) ○ cera alba (white beeswax used to provide a setting action) ○ glyceryl rosinat (a modified resin with high elasticity qualities) ○ ethylene/VA copolymer (a plasticiser used for its elasticity, flexibility and adhesion qualities) • how hair and skin classifications and the individual's pain tolerance can affect the selection of products and equipment used in an intimate waxing treatment • the importance of PPE • the importance of skin sensitivity and/or a thermal patch test • how to prepare the area, including cleansing and trimming of hair, if required • the importance of client preparation, including modesty towels and disposable underwear • the anatomical structure and features to determine symmetry and balance from intimate treatments • how to use application and removal techniques for strip and non-strip wax • the importance of stretching, positioning and supporting the client's skin during removal 	

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 5 (continued) Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hygiene requirements, in line with current industry standards, to prevent cross-contamination and/or infection • the importance of immediately disposing of the instrument used to apply the wax (such as a spatula) after completing the procedure (no double-dipping) • commercially viable treatment times • how to identify and address potential skin complications, including ingrown hairs and sensitive skin management • which post treatment products are available • contra-actions to depilation • how to deal with unforeseen circumstances, should they occur • methods of waste disposal procedures to meet legal requirements 	
<p>Outcome 6 Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hair removal procedures that involve larger, more complex, or sensitive areas of the body • enhanced technical skills • skin and hair types at an advanced level • how to adapt techniques to ensure client comfort and safety • how to work on areas with dense hair growth, challenging contours, or heightened sensitivity 	<p>Outcome 6 Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-cleanse the client's treatment area • select the appropriate advanced depilation treatment for hair type and classification • prepare the client correctly for the treatment process • apply hygiene requirements in line with current industry standards, to prevent cross-contamination • use PPE • trim hair, if applicable

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 6 (continued) Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a variety of advanced depilation area objectives for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ chest ○ back ○ abdomen ○ shoulders ○ buttocks ○ nostrils ○ ears <p>(This is not an exhaustive list. As new advanced depilation treatment options emerge, you should update to reflect the latest in innovation and styles.)</p> • different types of wax: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ strip ○ non-strip ○ roller wax ○ (hot/hard wax ○ warm wax ○ cream wax ○ organic wax • the difference in temperature of strip and non-strip wax 	<p>Outcome 6 (continued) Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply the strip or non-strip in line with manufacturer's guidelines in a safe methodical process • employ good posture and working methods • apply the wax at the appropriate angle in accordance with the advanced depilation waxing treatment protocol • identify and address potential skin complications, including ingrown hairs and sensitive skin management • select the correct product for post-advanced depilation treatment • complete the treatment within a commercially viable timeframe • adhere to waste disposal procedures to meet legal requirements • deal with unforeseen circumstances, should they occur • recognise contra-action and adverse reactions

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 6 (continued)</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common ingredients used for waxes that can be combined in different variations and mixed with additional ingredients and colour pigments to make the product look or smell more attractive, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ colophonium (brittle translucent resin used for sticky quality to bind onto the hair) ○ cera alba (white beeswax used to provide a setting action) ○ glyceryl rosinatate (a modified resin with high elasticity qualities) ○ ethylene/VA copolymer (a plasticiser used for its elasticity, flexibility and adhesion qualities) • how hair and skin classifications and the individual's pain tolerance can affect the selection of products and equipment used in an intimate waxing treatment • the importance of PPE • the importance of skin sensitivity and/or thermal patch test • the importance of client preparation, including modesty towels and disposable underwear • how to prepare the client's treatment area, including cleansing and trimming hair if required • application and removal techniques for strip and non-strip • the importance of stretching, positioning and supporting of the client's skin during removal • hygiene requirements in line with current industry standards to prevent cross-contamination and/or infection 	

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 6 (continued) Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of immediately disposing of the instrument used to apply the wax (such as a spatula) after completing the procedure (no double-dipping) • how to identify and address potential skin complications, including ingrown hairs and sensitive skin management • contra-actions and adverse reactions to depilation • how to deal with unforeseen circumstances, should they occur • methods of waste disposal procedures to meet legal requirements 	

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 7 Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of giving clear aftercare advice to the client, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ keeping the skin clean for 24 hours after the treatment ○ not touching the area with unclean hands ○ washing hands before applying any soothing cream ○ taking extra care to be clean after going to the toilet ○ recommending use of a moist toilet wipe ○ not using any fragranced deodorants, sprays or powders ○ not engaging in sexual activity for at least 24 hours after intimate waxing ○ avoiding tight underwear and tight clothes, as they cause friction ○ avoiding heat on the area, including saunas, hot tubs, steam rooms, hot baths and showers ○ only washing with lukewarm water, as heat will cause further irritation ○ avoiding perfumed bathing additives or bubble baths ○ avoiding tanning, sunbeds, fake tanning or sunbathing for at least 24 hours ○ avoiding gym workouts or sports that would increase perspiration in the area for at least 24 hours <p>(This list is not exhaustive and may be adapted to suit the client's needs)</p>	<p>Outcome 7 Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide individual aftercare advice to meet the needs of the treatment • provide individual homecare advice to meet the needs of the client • advise on maintenance and future treatments

Knowledge	Skills
<p>Outcome 7 (continued)</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of giving clear homecare advice, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ wearing clean underwear ○ advising clients that cotton is best, as nylon or other man-made fibres can cause irritation ○ using antibacterial wash or salt in a cool bath to help the area heal and to prevent infection ○ exfoliating the area gently with an exfoliating mitt or product approximately twice a week to avoid ingrown hairs (but not within 48 hours of treatment) • maintenance requirements and further treatments • the importance of a follow-up treatment in 4 to 6 weeks, and not using other temporary methods of hair removal between waxing appointments <p>(This is not an exhaustive list, and learners can adapt it depending on the client's needs.)</p>	
<p>Outcome 8</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the importance of evaluation to determine if the advanced depilation treatments were a success • the importance of feedback from the client • how to use the feedback the client gives to influence future practice and continuously improve practical skills 	<p>Outcome 8</p> <p>Learners can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evaluate the advanced depilation treatments and the degree of success achieved • evaluate feedback from the client • reflect on if the client's objectives were met • evaluate the 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:
 - delivering a thorough and safe application of treatment
 - meticulously planning and executing client's objectives for every aspect of the advanced depilation treatment
 - paying attention to detail and focusing on providing a high-quality treatment to the client's satisfaction
- integrity:
 - devising client treatment plans to ensure that every decision is based on honesty, ethical practice, and a commitment to the client
 - ensuring client treatment plans are based on accurate information, best practices, and having a genuine desire to improve the client's well-being
 - building trust with clients, as it's such an intimate treatment. Clients may also share personal information during the consultation process
 - understanding the importance of following General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidelines
 - treating clients fairly and respectfully throughout the treatment process
- adapting:
 - adjusting treatment plans based on client needs or preferences
 - providing up-to-date treatments that incorporate the latest trends and techniques

- altering client positions for hair removal to ensure the client's modesty and comfort
- adjusting to any unforeseen circumstances during treatment
- 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 fully understands the treatment plan, including the procedures, benefits, sensations and potential risks
 - actively listening to the client's feedback and adapting the treatment plan as needed
 - ensuring that the treatments stay relevant and effective
 - providing clients with aftercare and/or homecare advice to maximise results
- feeling:
 - empathising with the client to devise a treatment plan that is not only effective, but also treats the client's individual concerns
 - demonstrating empathy during the consultation and treatment process
 - encouraging clients to share their true concerns and preferences, leading to a more personalised and effective treatment plan
 - providing support through empathy to ease client anxiety and stress, and to improve their overall treatment experience and treatment outcomes

- collaborating:
 - continuously monitoring and adapting treatment plans with the client
 - having ongoing discussions with the client to ensure flexibility and that the treatment plan remains effective
- leading:
 - guiding the client through the treatment process
 - leading by example and motivating peers to contribute to an industry-reflective work environment

Innovation

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

- curiosity:
 - looking beyond the obvious to find innovative ways to tackle any challenges during the treatment process
- creativity:
 - designing customised treatment plans that suit individual clients
- sense-making:
 - interpreting and understanding information from the client
 - quickly making sense of changing circumstances and responding effectively
- critical thinking:
 - evaluating the effectiveness of treatments

Literacies

This unit provides opportunities to develop the following literacies.

Numeracy

Learners develop numeracy skills by:

- breaking down treatment plans into manageable time segments

Communication

Learners develop communication skills by:

- working closely with clients and peers

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

By aligning beauty therapy practices with the SDGs, the industry can contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world.

Learners develop a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and recognise the impact this has 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 unit is an optional unit in HNC Beauty Therapy. Learners can complete this as a stand-alone unit. Before they start the unit, learners should have prior knowledge of depilation techniques at a minimum of SCQF level 5 and/or have completed the Composite Skills Beauty (SCQF level 7) unit.

We recommend 40 hours for delivery and assessment. The amount of time you give to each outcome is at your discretion.

We suggest the following distribution of time, including assessment:

Outcome 1: Identify and describe essential anatomy knowledge relating to advanced depilation techniques (5 hours)

Outcome 2: Describe the absolute and relative contra-indications and contra-actions and adverse reactions relating to advanced depilation techniques (5 hours)

Outcome 3: Prepare for advanced depilation treatments using strip and non-strip techniques, following health, safety and hygiene practices (2 hours 30 minutes)

Outcome 4: Consult and propose an advanced depilation treatment plan (2 hours 30 minutes)

Outcome 5: Perform an intimate advanced depilation treatment using strip or non-strip techniques (10 hours)

Outcome 6: Perform an advanced depilation treatment using strip or non-strip techniques (10 hours)

Outcome 7: Provide aftercare and homecare advice and prescribe retail products for the client (3 hours)

Outcome 8: Evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment (2 hours)

Additional guidance

The guidance in this section is not mandatory.

Content and context for this unit

Learners gain knowledge and skills related to advanced depilation treatments. They learn about the effects and uses of advanced depilation products to help them select and create the most suitable treatments for their clients. Learners identify both absolute and relative contra-indications, as well as potential contra-actions, and learn how to manage these effectively.

Learners demonstrate effective communication techniques when consulting with clients to identify their specific objectives for advanced depilation treatments. They then develop personalised treatment plans using advanced depilation product knowledge and methods to address the identified concerns. Learners conduct treatments on clients with a variety of hair types and treatment objectives. They apply their knowledge of treatment techniques, following organisational and industry standards for self-presentation, timing, and treatment sequencing, all while complying with relevant health and safety legislation.

Learners should be aware of the waxing code of practice, including current age restrictions. Advanced depilation on intimate areas should not be carried out on clients under the age of 16 years, even with parental consent, due to safeguarding.

In addition to the specific vocational skills being developed and assessed, learners enhance their employability skills, such as customer care, effective communication, and time management.

The [National Occupational Standards \(NOS\)](#) on providing intimate waxing treatments has useful information you can give to learners.

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 Higher National Diploma (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 able to interpret current working practices, technologies and products in the beauty industry and be 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 the expectations of industry standards.

Learners must have access to:

- practical examples: real-life industry applications of advanced depilation treatments, to provide context
- e-learning platforms for virtual classes or supplementary learning (for example, Microsoft Teams, Moodle, Blackboard)
- course materials: learner handouts, textbooks, articles, and other reading and/or reference materials
- 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

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 help 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 advanced depilation treatment.

Initially, you should conduct practical demonstrations to show learners how to perform advanced depilation techniques using both strip and non-strip wax, and how to accurately select and use products that are appropriate for varying skin types and treatment objectives. Your demonstrations reinforce the benefits and results of each treatment, and you can explain how to adapt treatment applications. You should also demonstrate how to prepare the treatment area and client to ensure professional organisation and to incorporate relevant health and safety considerations. You should encourage learners to be aware of and check for absolute and relative contra-indications prior to any treatment.

We have identified a list of general contra-indications and contra-actions and adverse reactions across the HNC. However, not all apply to every unit. In addition, 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 advanced depilation 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 (such as severe psoriasis and severe eczema)
- dysfunction of the nervous system
- under the influence of alcohol, drugs
- hypersensitive skin
- eye infections
- recent aesthetic procedures (such as 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 contra-indications specific to advanced depilation treatments:

- history of thrombosis or embolism
- menorrhagia (heavy menstruation)
- varicose veins
- body or facial piercings

Contra-actions and adverse reactions:

- adverse skin reactions
- swelling

- bruising
- skin breakouts
- allergic and/or histamine reactions
- ingrown hairs
- skin lifting
- burns
- excessive or diminished hair growth
- broken hair

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 acceptable timeframe.

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

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

Integrate relevant current legislation in a realistic context so learners understand how it has an impact on daily salon practice. This helps them recognise their responsibilities regarding legislation so 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 profile and develops meta-skills.

Regularly monitor learners' progress and give them feedback that highlights 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 through various types of assessment. The following suggestions are just examples, and there may be other methods that are more suitable for specific 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 to develop different skills that can transfer to the workplace or to further and higher education.

For outcomes 1 and 2, learners complete a closed-book, supervised written paper focused on anatomy and physiology, absolute and relative contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions. You should use an assessor checklist to assess the learner's competence for each evidence requirement.

We recommend you assess outcomes 3 to 8 holistically.

Learners must perform a minimum of two intimate advanced depilation treatments and two advanced depilation treatments.

Intimate advanced depilation involves removing hair from the genital and perianal areas of the body. This technique extends beyond standard bikini line treatments and involves more sensitive and private areas. It necessitates advanced training, strict hygiene protocols, and a high level of client care and professionalism.

Intimate advanced depilation objectives include the following:

- Brazilian waxing involves removing all hair from the front and sides of the pubic area, including the labia, leaving a small strip or triangle if desired
- Hollywood waxing involves completely removing all pubic hair from the front, labia and perianal area
- extended bikini waxing is more extensive than a standard bikini wax, as hair is removed further in from the sides and top of the bikini line, but not as much as a Brazilian

- perianal waxing involves removing hair from the area around the anus and is often included in Brazilian or Hollywood treatments
- Las Vegas waxing involves additions such as glitter or gems, or shaping the remaining hair into a design, and is often associated with a more glamorous or bold aesthetic

This list is not exhaustive. As new advanced depilation treatment options emerge, you should update to reflect the latest in innovation and styles.

Advanced depilation treatments are hair removal procedures that involve larger, more complex, or sensitive areas of the body. These treatments require enhanced technical skills, a deeper understanding of skin and hair types, and the ability to adapt techniques to ensure client comfort and safety. They often involve working on areas with dense hair growth, challenging contours, or heightened sensitivity.

Advanced depilation areas include the following:

- full or partial back (upper half or lower half)
- chest, which often also includes the abdomen area
- abdomen only, if done separately from the chest
- shoulders (can be done on their own or included with back waxing)
- buttocks (non-intimate) — outer buttocks area, not including the perianal region
- removing visible hair from just inside the nostrils and ears

This list is not exhaustive. As new advanced depilation treatment options emerge, you should update to reflect the latest in innovation and styles.

You should use an assessor observation checklist alongside a thorough client consultation card to ensure that learners have met and documented all evidence requirements, as this allows you to track learners' progress throughout the unit.

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

Advanced Depilation (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 knowledge and skills necessary to enhance your waxing techniques and understand the latest strip and non-strip waxing methods for sensitive areas, including the intimate region, chest, forearms, back, nostrils, and ears.

Throughout the unit, you explore various topics such as:

- the anatomy of the skin and the pilosebaceous unit
- different hair types and classifications
- the causes of hair growth
- the hair growth cycle
- absolute and relative contra-indications
- pre- and post-treatment advice
- adverse reactions
- contra-actions

You'll master advanced pre- and post-treatment instructions, application and removal techniques for unwanted hair in sensitive areas. You'll assess clients' skin conditions and hair types to create, prepare, and administer tailored treatments, while also providing personalised aftercare, homecare and product recommendations.

This includes:

- preparing the work area and equipment in accordance with salon procedures
- consulting with clients to design customised treatment plans
- preparing clients for procedures
- performing treatments using both strip and non-strip techniques.

Throughout the unit, you'll:

- engage in client consultations to develop treatment plans that align with clients' objectives, while following established treatment protocols, product knowledge guidelines, and current health and safety regulations
- work with a diverse clientele to understand different skin and hair types and effectively apply and remove wax products
- deepen your understanding of selected professional strip and non-strip wax products
- recognise the benefits and effects of specific key ingredients
- apply your knowledge to plan and devise individualised treatment plans
- provide aftercare and homecare guidance
- prescribe suitable at-home products
- evaluate the effectiveness of treatments
- demonstrate a thorough understanding of, and strict adherence to, current health and safety regulations
- exhibit hygienic practices in the salon
- adhere to dress codes that reflect salon and industry standards

Effective communication and consultation techniques are strongly emphasised in the unit. You'll develop important interpersonal skills while ensuring sensitivity when working with clients.

You complete a written paper in closed-book supervised conditions on the relevant anatomy and physiology, contra-indications, contra-actions and adverse reactions to advanced depilation treatments. You are also observed on your treatment performance on a minimum of two clients, covering two intimate advanced depilation treatments and two advanced depilation treatments.

Upon successful completion of the unit, you have the essential skills and knowledge you need to pursue a successful career in the beauty therapy industry.

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

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

- focusing:
 - delivering a thorough and safe application of treatment
 - meticulously planning and executing client's objectives of every aspect of the advanced depilation treatment
 - paying attention to detail and focusing on providing a high-quality treatment to the client's satisfaction

- integrity:
 - devising client treatment plans to ensure that every decision is based on honesty, ethical practice, and a commitment to the client
 - ensuring client treatment plans are based on accurate information, best practices, and a genuine desire to improve the client's well-being
 - building trust with client, as it's such an intimate treatment. Clients may also share personal information during the consultation process
 - understanding the importance of following General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) guidelines
 - treating clients fairly and respectfully throughout the treatment process

- adapting:
 - adjusting treatment plans based on client needs or preferences
 - providing up-to-date treatments that incorporate the latest trends and techniques
 - altering client positions for hair removal to ensure client's modesty and comfort
 - adjusting to any unforeseen circumstances during treatment

- 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 fully understands the treatment plan, including the procedures, benefits, sensations and potential risks
 - actively listening to the client's feedback and adapting the treatment plan as needed
 - ensuring that the treatments stay relevant and effective
 - providing clients with aftercare and/or homecare advice to maximise results

- feeling:
 - empathising with the client to devise a treatment plan that is not only effective, but also treats the client's individual concerns
 - demonstrating empathy during the consultation and the treatment process

- encouraging clients to share their true concerns and preferences, leading to a more personalised and effective treatment plan
- providing support through empathy to ease client anxiety and stress, and to improve their overall treatment experience and outcomes
- collaborating:
 - continuously monitoring and adapting treatment plans with the client
 - having ongoing discussions with the client to ensure flexibility and that the treatment plan remains effective
- leading:
 - guiding the client through the treatment process
 - leading by example and motivating peers to contribute to an industry-reflective work environment

Innovation

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

- curiosity:
 - looking beyond the obvious to find innovative ways to tackle any challenges during the treatment process
- creativity:
 - designing customised treatment plans that suit individual clients
- sense-making:
 - interpreting and understanding information from the client
 - quickly making sense of changing circumstances and responding effectively
- critical thinking:
 - evaluating the effectiveness of treatments

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 \(UN\) Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

By aligning beauty therapy practices with the SDGs, the industry can contribute to a more sustainable and equitable world.

Administrative information

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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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