



National Qualifications 2021
Qualification Verification Summary Report
Skills for Work: Health Sector

Verification group number: 426

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

Skills for Work Courses

C261 74 Skills for Work: Health Sector (National 4)

F58P 74	Health Sector: An Introduction
F58R 74	Health Sector: Roles and Responsibilities
F598 74	Health Sector: Health Awareness
F599 74	Health Sector: Working Safely
F59A 74	Health sector: Life Sciences Industry

C261 75 Skill for Work: Health Sector (National 5)

F88E 75	Health Sector: Working in the Health Sector
F88F 75	Health Sector: Life Sciences Industry in the Health Sector
F88H 75	Health Sector: Improving Health and Well-being
F88J 75	Health Sector: Physiology of the Cardiovascular System
F88K 75	Health Sector: Working in Non Clinical Roles

General comments

In academic session 2020–21 a decision was made that Skills for Work verification would take place and a limited number of centres were chosen for remote verification.

In response to the disruption to learning caused by COVID-19, modifications were made to the assessment requirements for Skills for Work: Health Sector (National 5) in session 2020–21. This information is available on the Skills for Work Health Sector section of the SQA website.

Some centres did not deliver the entire National 4 or National 5 awards, and only opted to deliver the units that they felt were most suitable for online delivery. Where units have a practical element, centres made innovative adaptations to delivery and assessment, utilising technology as much as possible to ensure learning and teaching experiences were engaging.

The use of video conferencing software ensured continuous ‘face to face’ delivery as much as possible.

The ethos of the Skills for Work: Health Sector awards is hands-on, supported by practical experience where possible. Promoting care values such as teamwork and peer support, and providing opportunities to develop transferable work-based skills are central to the Health Sector awards. All centres verified this session worked hard to ensure this was at the heart of their delivery and candidates were not disadvantaged by the restrictions in place in centres.

Course arrangements, unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

In general, centres demonstrated a clear understanding of the related documentation and referred to this in their own internal verification

documentation. Centres should, as standard practice, regularly check for updated materials available to download from SQA's website.

Centres should ensure that the national standard continues to be met when making adaptations because of online learning. Always refer to the course arrangements, unit specifications, original instruments of assessment and the exemplification materials.

Evidence requirements

Overall, centres have utilised the instruments of assessment when delivering the Health Sector awards at both National 4 and National 5. These should always be the most up-to-date versions. Any adaptations to meet candidates' learning needs, or to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions, should be with the agreement of SQA, using the prior verification service.

Administration of assessments

Most centres provided robust evidence of the assessment procedure and the internal verification process. Due to restrictions in centres as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, some modifications and adaptations to assessment processes were required. Centres provided details of these adaptations and evidence requirements continued to meet the national standard.

For the most part, conditions of assessment were not changed. Where closed book assessments were not possible due to online learning, candidates were still provided with a robust assessment experience.

Written and oral feedback were provided to candidates and centres presented evidence of online discussions and formal assessment feedback via online checklists.

Where remediation was required, candidates were afforded adequate support to improve on their original assessment. Overall, this was clearly documented by assessors.

Areas of good practice

Centres have shown an excellent response to online and blended learning approaches. With continuous disruptions to the delivery of the Health Sector awards, the evidence provided during verification demonstrated the hard work and determination by all assessors in ensuring that candidates were still provided with a good learning experience.

Centres have worked hard to make adaptations to assessments, ensuring standards were maintained and the online materials were accessible for all learners.

Centres ensured that challenges experienced through the use of ICT were not a barrier to engagement and a number of different formats of assessment submission were accepted, including video and photo evidence submissions.

Specific areas for improvement

In anticipation of continued restrictions and the potential for either full online learning or a blended approach for the next academic year, centres should ensure a robust pre-delivery verification process and schedule regular standardisation meetings to support each assessor in the delivery of the units.

Any changes to assessment conditions must be fully documented and justified, with all assessors and verifiers being made aware of adaptations and modifications. Centres should also seek SQA approval, using the prior verification service.

Centres should ensure that all unit assessment support packs are regularly checked to ensure the most up-to-date versions are used.

As much as possible, detailed written feedback should be provided to all candidates by the assessor. If verbal feedback is provided, then each assessor should make a written note of this feedback and ensure this is both signed and dated.