

# NVQs in Health Centres' information



# NVQs in Health

## Centres' information

The health sector and the NHS are recognised as the largest employer in Europe. As a result of rapid change and government drives across the UK to modernise and raise standards in these sectors, there is an increasing need to recruit, retain and develop the skills of this workforce.

Our NVQs in Health are the benchmark qualifications, covering nineteen specialist pathways and forming the basis for career and workforce development in the health services. The NVQs support the Agenda for Change in the NHS and each unit is mapped to the Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF).

These new qualifications, introduced in 2005, are based on the new National Occupational Standards for Health. They contain some units in common with the Health and Social N/SVQs but offer a different structure including specialist options, work effectiveness options and general/clinical and therapeutic options.

By including the facility to use expert witness testimony, the assessment of the new qualifications recognises the realities of work-based assessment, especially accessibility, the availability of assessors and the issue of specialist pathways.

### What qualifications are available?

#### Level 2 NVQ in Health

There are three pathways at level 2

- **Blood Donor Support:** this pathway is designed for support workers in the Blood Transfusion Service
- **Clinical Support:** this pathway is for hospital or community based workers such as health care assistants or auxiliaries
- **Perioperative Care Support:** this pathway is for theatre orderlies, theatre porters and care assistants in operating theatres or day surgery

Learners complete **ten** units called competences. They select two from the four core units/competences which include:

- Communicate with and complete records for individuals
- Support the health and safety of yourself and individuals
- Develop your knowledge and practice
- Ensure your own actions support the care, protection and well-being of individuals

They then choose the remaining eight units that best match their usual work role. These units cover a wide range of tasks and are grouped into general/clinical, pathway-specific and work effectiveness competences.

The ten units in the Perioperative Care Support pathway are all mandatory.

#### Level 3 NVQ in Health

The pathways in this level are especially designed for assistants and helpers in a range of settings and supporting a range of professionals. Many are hospital or clinic based but some are suitable for workers in community based services or general practices.

There are sixteen pathways at level 3

- Allied Health Profession Support (General)
- Allied Health Profession Support (Dietetics)
- Allied Health Profession Support (Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy)
- Allied Health Profession Support (Radiotherapy)
- Allied Health Profession Support (Clinical Imaging)
- Allied Health Profession Support (Speech and language therapy)
- General Healthcare Support
- Decontamination
- Clinical Healthcare Skills
- Maternity/Paediatric Support
- Newborn Hearing Screening
- Obstetric Theatre Support
- Perioperative Care - Surgical Support
- Perioperative Care - Anaesthetic/Post Anaesthetic Care Unit Support
- Renal Support

Learners complete **ten** units - called competences - or **12** if they are on the Perioperative pathways:

They will select two from the four core units/competences:

- Promote effective communication for and about individuals
- Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security in the working environment
- Reflect on and develop your practice

The fourth core unit is either:

- Promote the well being and protection of children and young people, or,
- Promote choice, well being and the protection of all individuals

Learners then choose the remaining eight units that best match your usual work role. These units cover a wide range of tasks and are grouped into general/clinical, pathway-specific and work effectiveness competences.

The competences appear in many pathways and some are in the Health and Social Care NVQs also. This supports career development and flexible working by crediting competences that have already achieved in other Health NVQ pathways or in the Health and Social Care NVQ.

The twelve units/competences in the Perioperative pathways are all mandatory.

### Key points

- Recognised by workforce development organisations across the UK
- Mapped to the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework
- Increased scope for the use of expert witness evidence
- Incentives to use the structures for continuing professional development
- Full City & Guilds documentation and available electronically

### **Do the qualifications form part of a recognised framework?**

The NVQs are accredited by QCA. They are based on the National Occupational Standards agreed by the Skills for Health and represent agreed best practice. This means that they are the qualifications most widely recognised by the health care regulators, workforce development organisations and employers as the benchmark for the sector. They support the recent initiatives in workforce development for health services across the UK such as skills escalation, career development and especially the Agenda for Change.

### **How are the qualifications assessed?**

These new NVQs also allow for greater input of evidence by an identified expert witness. The centre is responsible for ensuring that the expert witness meets the requirements of their role which is outlined in the Standards and Assessment Requirements document.

### **What publications are available?**

When you register a candidate you will automatically receive a CD containing the Centre guide to N/SVQs, the Candidate guide, and the Standards and Assessment Requirements and all of the Core and Optional Units. The Standards and Assessment Requirements book details the requirements of assessors, verifiers and expert witnesses and also contains the required assessment documentation with exemplars of their use. This CD is included in the registration fee. Additional copies are available from our Publications team.

All of the above and other supporting documentation is also available from our website.

Nelson Thornes publishers are producing a series 'City & Guilds Endorsed' text books to support learners. Visit their website to find out more [www.nelsonthornes.com](http://www.nelsonthornes.com). This publication will be particularly helpful in the core units.

### **Are there any other qualifications that may be of interest?**

We offer the complete range of qualifications for the care, health, community and children's sectors. You might also be interested in:

#### **Levels 2, 3 and 4 N/SVQs in Health and Social Care**

#### **Level 2 NVQ in Support Services in Health Care**

#### **Levels 2 and 3 NVQ In Pharmacy Services**

#### **Level 3 NVQ in Clinical Laboratory Support**

To aid progress between levels, or to specialise in an area, we recommend:

#### **Levels 2 and 3 Supporting Care Practice**

#### **Levels 2 and 3 Certificate in Working with People who have Learning Disabilities**

#### **Level 3 Certificate in Community Mental Health Care**

#### **Higher Professional Diploma in Learning Disability Services**

#### **Higher Professional Diploma in Health and Well-Being**

For learners new to the sector you might want to look at these Initial Awards:

#### **Level 2 Certificate in Contributing to the Care Setting**

#### **Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Work**

#### **What's the next step?**

If you are an existing approved centre, you will need to complete a scheme approval form (SAP). If you are not an approved centre and would like to become one, please contact your nearest City & Guilds office who will guide you through the approval process.

#### **How can I find out more?**

You can find out more by contacting your nearest City & Guilds office. Log on to our website to find the location of your nearest one, or contact our Customer Relations team at:

#### **City & Guilds**

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If you're asked for a scheme number, please quote 3173.

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