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Qualification Specification

Highfield Level 2 Award in Understanding Infection Prevention and Control in Health and Care Settings (RQF)

Qualification Number: 603/0060/7

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Highfield Level 2 Award in Understanding Infection Prevention and Control in Health and Care Settings (RQF)

Introduction

This qualification specification is designed to outline all you need to know to offer this qualification at your centre. If you have any further questions, please contact your account manager.

Qualification regulation and support

The Highfield Level 2 Award in Understanding Infection Prevention and Control in Health and Care Settings (RQF) has been developed and is awarded by Highfield Qualifications and sits on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF). The RQF is a qualification framework regulated by Ofqual and CCEA Regulation.

The qualification is also supported by Skills for Health the sector skills council for the UK health sector.

Key facts

Qualification number:	603/0060/7
Learning aim reference:	60300607
Credit value:	1
Assessment method:	Multiple choice examination
Guided learning hours (GLH):	9
Total qualification time (TQT):	11

Qualification overview and objective

This qualification is designed for those learners wishing to gain a nationally recognised qualification in the prevention and control of infections within health and care settings. This may be staff who require a refresher/CPD training or learners working towards/new to the sector.

The objective of this qualification is to support roles found in health and care settings, such as care homes, health centres, surgeries, childcare facilities and day centres, in the principles of infection prevention and control.

The qualification provides learners with the basic knowledge and understanding of:

- the common health care associated infections
- the chain of infection
- the importance of correct handwashing procedures
- the personal protective equipment role
- linen management
- the decontamination process
- blood and bodily fluids spill management
- correct sharp management
- waste management and associated risks
- the different roles and responsibilities within health and care settings

This qualification meets the **knowledge requirements** found in standard 15 of the care certificate. (Competency will need to be met separately).

Entry requirements

To register for this qualification, learners are required to meet the following entry requirements:

- be 14 years of age or above

Geographical Coverage

This qualification is suitable for delivery in England

Guidance on delivery

The total qualification time for this qualification is 11 and of this 9 is recommended as guided learning hours.

The delivery is dependent on the centre, but it is a recommendation that it is delivered over 2 x ½ days or 1 full day. This delivery programme may be adjusted in accordance with learners' needs and/or local circumstances.

TQT is an estimate of the total number of hours it would take an average learner to achieve and demonstrate the necessary level of attainment to be awarded with a qualification, both under direct supervision (forming guided learning hours) and without supervision (all other time). TQT and GLH values are advisory and assigned to a qualification as guidance.

Guidance on assessment

This qualification is graded as Pass or Fail.

This qualification is assessed by a multiple-choice question (MCQ) examination, which is externally set and externally assessed. This method of assessment is an end-of-course examination and must follow the Highfield Examination and Invigilation Procedures. During the assessment, learners are required to choose 1 of the prescribed options to answer a set examination questions. The examination for this qualification contains **40 questions** that must be completed within **1 hour**. Successful learners will have to demonstrate knowledge and understanding across the qualification syllabus and achieve a minimum **pass mark of 70% - 28/40**. Completed examination papers should be returned to Highfield for marking. Results will then be provided to the centre afterwards.

Centres must take all reasonable steps to avoid any part of the assessment of a learner (including any internal quality assurance and invigilation) being undertaken by any person who has a personal interest in the result of the assessment.

Guidance on quality assurance

HABC requires centres to have in place a robust mechanism for internal quality assurance. Internal quality assurance must be completed by an appropriately qualified person and that person must not have been involved in any aspect of the delivery of the course they are quality assuring.

HABC will support centres by conducting ongoing engagements to ensure and verify the effective and efficient delivery of the qualification.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

Centres may apply to use recognition of prior learning or prior achievement to reduce the amount of time spent in preparing the learner for assessment. For further information on how centres can apply to use RPL as described above, please refer to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) policy

in the members' area of the Highfield Qualifications website. This policy should be read in conjunction with this specification and all other relevant Highfield Qualifications documentation.

Tutor requirements

Highfield Qualifications recommends nominated tutors for this qualification meet the following:

- be occupationally knowledgeable in the area of Infection Prevention and Control. Their knowledge should be at least to the same level as the qualification. This may be through relevant subject area qualifications and/or able to demonstrate relevant experience (1-2 years) and knowledge in a work context. For example:
 - Level 2 Award in the Prevention and Control of Infection
 - Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) for England (QCF) – with the following units:
 - R/504/2207 Supporting infection prevention and control in social care
 - H/501/7103 Causes and spread of infection
 - L/501/6737 The Principles of Infection Prevention and Control
 - microbiology at level 3 or above
 - a nursing degree

 - hold or be working towards a recognised teaching qualification or experience, which could include any of the following:
 - Level 3 or 4 Award in Education and Training or equivalent
 - Diploma or Certificate in Education
 - Bachelors or Masters Degree in Education
 - Teachers Certificate or equivalent
 - Level 3 or 4 NVQ in Training and/or Development
 - Professional Trainers Certificate
 - Proof of at least 30 hours of training in any subject

 - maintain appropriate continued professional development for the subject area
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Mapping to National Occupational Standards (NOS)

This qualification maps to the following National Occupational Standards (NOS):

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| • SFHIPC13 | • SFHIPC12 |
| • SFHIPC9 | • SFHIPC2 |
| • SFHIPC1 | • SFHIPC6 |
| • SFHIPC3 | • SFHIPC4 |
| | • SFHIPC7 |
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Reasonable adjustments and special considerations

Highfield has measures in place for learners who require additional support. Please refer to Highfield Qualifications' Reasonable Adjustments Policy for further information/guidance.

ID requirements

It is the responsibility of the centre to have systems in place to ensure that the person taking an assessment is indeed the person they are claiming to be. All centres are therefore required to ensure that each learner's identification is checked before they undertake the assessment. Highfield Qualifications recommends the following as proof of a learner's identity:

- a valid passport (any nationality)
- a signed UK photocard driving licence
- a valid warrant card issued by HM forces or the police
- another photographic ID card, e.g. employee ID card, student ID card, travel card etc.

If a learner is unable to produce any of the forms of photographic identification listed above, a centre may accept another form of identification containing a signature, for example, a credit card. Identification by a third-party representative, such as a line manager, human resources manager or invigilator, will also be accepted.

For more information on learner ID requirements, please refer to Highfield Qualifications' Core Manual.

Progression opportunities

On successful completion of this qualification, learners may wish to continue their development by undertaking one of the following qualifications:

- Level 2 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care
- Level 2 Diploma in Care
- Level 3 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care
- Level 3 Diploma in Adult Care
- Level 3 Diploma in Healthcare Support

Useful websites

- www.skillsforcare.org.uk
 - www.skillsforhealth.org.uk
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Appendix 1: Qualification structure

To complete the Highfield **Level 2 Award in Understanding Infection Prevention and Control in Health and Care Settings (RQF)**, learners must complete the following mandatory unit.

Mandatory group

Unit reference	Unit title	Level	GLH	Credit
H/615/0079	Understanding Infection Prevention and Control in Health and Care Settings	2	9	1

Appendix 2: Qualification content

Unit 1: Understanding Infection prevention and Control in Health and Care Settings

Unit number: H/615/0079

Credit: 1

GLH: 9

Level: 2

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
<i>The learner will</i>	<i>The learner can</i>
<p>1. Understand common Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI's) and the chain of infection in health and care</p>	<p>1.1 Identify the different types of pathogenic organisms that cause infection</p> <p>1.2 Define Infection, Colonisation and Infestation</p> <p>1.3 Outline the significant Healthcare Associated Infections (HCAI's)</p> <p>1.4 Describe the causes, symptoms and prevention of the main Healthcare Associated Infections</p> <p>1.5 Outline the chain of infection</p> <p>1.6 Outline the standard/universal procedures for infection prevention and control in Health and Care Settings</p> <p>1.7 Describe how to break the chain of infection using standard precautions and procedures</p>
<p>2. Understand the importance of correct hand washing procedures for infection prevention and control</p>	<p>2.1 Explain the importance of hand washing for the prevention and control of infection</p> <p>2.2 Identify the appropriate facilities and equipment for correct hand washing</p> <p>2.3 Identify when individuals are expected to wash their hands</p> <p>2.4 Identify the procedure for correct hand washing</p> <p>2.5 Describe correct procedure for use of alcohol gels and their limitations</p>

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
<i>The learner will</i>	<i>The learner can</i>
3. Understand the principles of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used in infection prevention and control	3.1 Outline which Personal Protective Equipment should be worn for different risks 3.2 Identify the responsibilities of employees relating to the use of PPE 3.3 Identify the responsibilities of employers relating to the use of PPE
4. Know how to manage Linen	4.1 Describe how to handle linen in order to prevent the spread of infection
5. Understand the decontamination process in health and care	5.1 Define contamination and decontamination 5.2 Outline the difference between the three levels of Decontamination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning • Disinfection • Sterilisation 5.3 Outline the correct cleaning methods used in the decontamination process 5.4 Outline the correct decontamination methods used in the disinfection process 5.5 Explain the importance of respecting individuals' dignity when undertaking decontamination tasks of a personal nature
6. Know the correct management of blood and bodily fluid spills	6.1 Describe the procedure to deal with blood and bodily fluid spillages
7. Know the correct management of sharps	7.1 Describe the correct procedure for the management of sharps
8. Understand waste management and the associated risks in health and care	8.1 Explain why waste management is important 8.2 Describe how to manage different types of waste 8.3 Explain the risks associated with different types of waste
9. Know the roles and responsibilities in preventing infection in health and care	9.1 Identify the legal obligations of employers in health and care in relation to infection prevention and control

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
<i>The learner will</i>	<i>The learner can</i>
	<p>9.2 Identify key roles and responsibilities of employees in relation to infection prevention and control</p> <p>9.3 Outline the role of risk assessment in reducing the spread of infection</p>

Amplification
<p>1.1 pathogenic organisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacteria, Viruses, Fungi, parasites <p>1.2 Define Infection, Colonisation and Infestation Definitions to include bacterial and viral infections; colonisation threat to others but not self; infestation – internal and external</p> <p>1.3 Outline the significant infections in Health and Care Settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRSA, C. diff, Norovirus, Gastroenteritis/Food poisoning (Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli, Listeria), Urinary Tract Infections (UTI’S) common cold & flu, Hep B, Athletes’ Foot, Scabies <p>Recommendation: Any new/current issues arising in relation to this assessment criterion is recommended to be covered to provide up-to-date CPD and awareness within the sector. Unless identified within the Indicative content above it will not be assessed.</p> <p>1.4 causes, symptoms and prevention of the main Healthcare Association Infections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Example Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (colonisation / Infection), Clostridium difficile, Noro virus <p>Causes of HCAI include: low immunity, poor hygiene and infection control practice, poor equipment, lack of knowledge, lack of training of staff, inadequate policies and procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention: good infection control measures and practice, effective policies and procedures, training and education <p>1.5 chain of infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infectious agent Reservoir Portal of entrance Mode/means/route of transmission (Airborne, ingestion, inoculation, via placenta, sexually transmitted) Portal of exit Susceptible host

- Direct – Person to person
- Indirect – Via clothing, bedding etc.

1.5 standard/universal procedures

- **The teaching of standard precautions should include (WHO):**
 - Hand hygiene
 - USE of PPE
 - Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
 - Environmental cleaning
 - Linen management
 - Waste disposal including sharps management and disposal
 - Equipment and furniture cleaning
- **1.7 how to break the chain of infection:** Prompt treatment, decontamination, good health and hygiene, use of PPE and appropriate waste management and disposal, Effective hygiene practice, hand washing, clean airflow, isolation precautions, good nutritional support, recognise and treat high risk patients.

2.2 facilities and equipment for correct hand washing:

Clean hand wash only sinks, elbow/wrist operated taps, hot and cold running water, mixer taps if possible, paper towel and proper disposal bins, liquid soap dispensers, importance of hand care and moisturisers

2.3 when individuals are expected to wash their hands: WHO 5 moments

2.4 procedure for correct hand washing:

- Include preparation and the 6 stage procedure.
- Bare below the elbows, no jewellery, nail hygiene.
- Recommend the encouragement of using a demonstration with the use of UV light
- Areas missed most often during hand washing

2.5 correct procedure for use of alcohol gels and their limitations:

- Used with clean hands
- Not to be used with Norovirus or diarrhoea

3.1 PPE use for different risks: examples:

- apron and gloves in managing body fluids,
- prevent contamination with chemicals,
- face / eye protection prevent contact with mucous membranes

3.2 Employee responsibilities:

- wear PPE according to policy,

- examine before use, and report any problems

3.3 Employer responsibilities

- duty to provide PPE and training

3.4 Handling linen: storage, handling, bagging, transporting, laundering

4.1 how to handle linen:

- Removal of soiled
- decontamination of linen
- handling and storage of clean linen
- Different settings

5.2 Levels of decontamination: high medium low degree of contamination

5.3 correct cleaning methods used in the decontamination process:

- Damp dusting
- Neutral detergent + hot water
- Disposal of Single use equipment
- Single Person Use equipment – correct decontamination

5.4 correct decontamination methods used in the disinfection process:

prior cleaning, appropriate disinfectant for the micro-organisms present, appropriate strength of the disinfectant, the equipment, contact time

6.1 blood and bodily fluid spillages

- List spill kit equipment
 - both spill kits 1. Blood & body fluids, 2. Urine and vomit spill

7.1 Managing sharps; correct disposal, not re-sheathing (use of safety sharps including needles, scalpels etc)

8.2 how to manage different types of waste:

- types / classification of waste safe storage
- colour coding
- transportation of waste
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8.3 risks associated with different types of waste: Examples:

- hidden hazards – sharps in bedding
- spillages
- cross infection

9.1 legal obligations of employers in infection control

- key legislation and regulations (HASAWA 2012; COSHH, RIDDOR)
- Measures in place to ensure infection control

1.2 key roles and responsibilities for employees:

- mandatory training,
- reporting hazards,
- applying correct practice
- awareness of own health and hygiene, and how it may pose a risk to others

9.3 role of risk assessment in reducing the spread of infection

The assessment of hazards in workplace, evaluate risks, decide on precautions, record significant findings and review