



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

HLTAHW419B Provide information and strategies in preventing communicable disease

Release: 1

HLTAHW419B Provide information and strategies in preventing communicable disease

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Unit Descriptor

This unit describes the competencies required to conduct health promotion related to communicable diseases as part of primary health care services for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities. Specific advice provided may be limited by close supervision or established guidelines in line with community needs and health provider guidelines.

Application of the Unit

Application

This unit is intended to address skills and knowledge required by those working with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities to deliver primary health care services at Certificate IV level.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Not Applicable

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills

This unit contains Employability Skills

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements define the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

The Performance Criteria specify the level of performance required to demonstrate achievement of the Element. Terms in *italics* are elaborated in the Range Statement.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

1. Promote the prevention of communicable disease

- 1.1 Consider identified community and individual client needs in determining priorities and potential areas to be addressed by health promotion relating to communicable disease
- 1.2 Provide accurate information about the nature, incidence and potential impacts of communicable diseases in relation to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities
- 1.3 Provide health *information regarding communicable disease* in plain language and visual aids are used where appropriate
- 1.4 Discuss risk factors relating to specific communicable disease in the context of local, cultural, community, family and individual issues
- 1.5 Provide information on practices to prevent communicable disease to address identified individual and community needs
- 1.6 Explain and/or demonstrate practices for early detection of specific communicable diseases in line with organisation guidelines
- 1.7 Provide practical advice relating to maintaining good health in relation to prevalent communicable diseases and in line with community needs and organisational guidelines

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

2. Provide *support to clients with communicable disease*

- 2.1 Support clients with common communicable diseases in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities in line with organisation guidelines and identified protocols
- 2.2 Provide guidance about health issues related to communicable disease in line with community needs and organisational guidelines
- 2.3 Use culturally appropriate educational resources for communicable disease in programs
- 2.4 Provide information about resources available in the community and state in relation to addressing communicable disease issues
- 2.5 Make appropriate referrals for clients with communicable disease in line with organisation guidelines
- 2.6 Maintain confidentiality to reflect community and organisation guidelines

3. Follow-up clients with communicable disease

- 3.1 Organise follow-up care for clients with communicable disease using computer and/or paper based registers
- 3.2 Produce lists of clients with communicable disease who are significantly overdue health care checks and employ active-recall strategies
- 3.3 Identify social and environmental factors that impact on communicable disease and address in partnership with the Aboriginal community and other agencies
- 3.4 Promptly report any notifiable diseases detected or suspected in line with organisation and regulatory requirements

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level required for this unit.

Essential knowledge:

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

This includes knowledge of:

- Statistical incidence of communicable diseases Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander populations and especially in local communities.
- Broad knowledge of communicable diseases (manifestation, impact and treatment).
 - The concept of risk factors and strategies to minimise risk.
 - The importance of early detection and action to avoid transmission.
 - Options for treatment / management.
 - Strategies for prevention of communicable diseases in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Knowledge of symptoms and signs that suggest a need for medical or specialist assessment.
- Organisation policies and procedures relating to client confidentiality.
- Role of the Aboriginal Health Worker in counselling and health education.
- Strategies to:
 - Improve the incidence of communicable diseases in the community.
 - Address clients presenting with signs or symptoms of a communicable disease.
 - Coordinate provision of optimum level of health service delivery in relation to communicable diseases.
- Communicable disease issues requiring referral.
- Relevant evaluation criteria for monitoring effectiveness of health care program.

Essential skills:

It is critical that the candidate demonstrate the ability to:

- Communicate effectively in a group and one-on-one environment to promote healthy practices and discuss health issues
- Provide accurate and relevant information and guidance about communicable disease

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

care in line with identified individual and community needs

In addition, the candidate must be able to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

This includes the ability to:

- Take a case history and use appropriate screening techniques to detect communicable diseases
- Recognise variations from normal screening outcomes
- Communicate effectively with client to obtain information and ensure understanding of information provided
- Liaise between service providers, individuals, families and community groups
- Provide effective community education on communicable diseases
- Reflect on and improve own level and application of skills and knowledge to achieve desirable outcomes and maintain own capabilities
- Work with a team to deliver effective health promotion and education for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities and clients using appropriate facilitation, problem solving and instructional practices

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the Performance Criteria, Required Skills and Knowledge, the Range Statement and the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package.

Critical aspects of assessment:

- The individual being assessed must provide evidence of specified essential knowledge as well as skills
- Consistency of performance should be demonstrated over the required range of situations relevant to the workplace
- Where, for reasons of safety, space, or access to equipment and resources, assessment takes place away from the workplace, the assessment environment should represent workplace conditions as closely as possible

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Conditions of assessment:

This unit includes skills and knowledge specific to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander culture
Assessment must therefore be undertaken by a workplace assessor who has expertise in the unit of competency or who has the current qualification being assessed and who is:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander him/herself

or:

- accompanied and advised by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who is a recognised member of the community with experience in primary health care

Context of assessment:

Competence should be demonstrated working individually, under supervision or as part of a primary health care team working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients

Assessment should replicate workplace conditions as far as possible

Related units:

This unit may be assessed independently or in conjunction with other units with associated workplace application

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Add any essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts.

RANGE STATEMENT

Cultural respect

This competency standard supports the recognition, protection and continued advancement of the inherent rights, cultures and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

It recognises that the improvement of the health status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must include attention to physical, spiritual, cultural, emotional and social well-being, community capacity and governance

Its application must be culturally sensitive and supportive of traditional healing and health, knowledge and practices

Community control

Community participation and control in decision-making is essential to all aspects of health work, and the role of the health worker is to support the community in this process

Supervision

Supervision must be conducted in accordance with prevailing state/territory and organisation legislative and regulatory requirements

References to supervision may include either direct or indirect supervision of work by more experienced workers, supervisors, managers or other health professionals

A person at this level should **only** be required to make decisions about clients within the organisation's standard treatment protocols and associated guidelines

RANGE STATEMENT

Legislative requirements

Federal, state or territory legislation may impact on workers' practices and responsibilities. Implementation of the competency standards should reflect the legislative framework in which a health worker operates. It is recognised that this may sometimes reduce the application of the Range of Variables in practice. However, assessment in the workplace or through simulation should address all essential skills and knowledge across the Range of Variables. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers may be required to operate in situations that do not constitute "usual practice" due to lack of resources, remote locations and community needs. As a result, they may need to possess more competencies than described by "usual practice circumstances". Under all circumstances, the employer must enable the worker to function within the prevailing legislative framework.

Support for clients with common communicable diseases may include but is not limited to:

- Information on:
 - the nature and prevalence of communicable disease
 - risk factors and practices to reduce or minimise risk
 - diet
 - medication
 - exercise
 - the importance of regular blood tests, urine tests and medical review
 - the natural history of the disease
 - regular monitoring
 - options for management
 - referral
 - liaison with other agencies

Information on communicable disease may include but is not limited to:

- Cycle of communicable disease including:
 - aetiological agent
 - reservoir
 - portal of exit
 - mode of transmission

RANGE STATEMENT

- portal of entry and
- susceptible host
- Reasons for excluding clients from schools or similar group situations.
- Reasons for listing some communicable diseases as notifiable diseases

Unit Sector(s)

Not Applicable