



Australian Government

HLTAUD008 Conduct audiometric testing

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in HLT Health Release 10.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to prepare for, conduct and interpret the results of comprehensive hearing testing in adults, including masking, speech audiometry and impedance audiometry. It includes the ability to establish a positive client relationship, conduct audiometric tests and to recognise situations where referral to other health professionals is required.

This unit applies to workers who conduct audiometric testing. This may include audiometrists, allied health assistants supporting audiometrists and audiologists in health care organisations, nurses and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State/Territory legislation, Australian/New Zealand standards and industry codes of practice.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

N/A

Unit sector(s)

Audiometry

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements define the essential outcomes</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>

1. Prepare for hearing tests	1.1 Check and confirm forms and materials required for audiometric tests are available 1.2 Prepare physical environment and check ambient noise level meet Australian/New Zealand standards 1.3 Perform basic equipment checks and ensure calibration requirements are met 1.4 Check and confirm personal protective equipment is available for use
2. Establish a positive relationship with the client	2.1 Take detailed case history and explain administrative procedures to client 2.2 Use questioning and active listening to identify client expectations 2.3 Explain purpose and process of otoscopy and audiometric tests using client-centric approach 2.4 Address client concerns and adapt communication to meet diverse needs 2.5 Obtain client consent and maintain confidentiality of client information
3. Conduct otoscopy	3.1 Follow personal hygiene and infection control, including hand hygiene, correct, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and safe handling of materials, in accordance with organisational procedures 3.2 Conduct otoscopy and maintain client comfort according to organisational procedures 3.3 Identify contraindications requiring referral 3.4 Refer client for further assessment and treatment based on client needs, according to organisational procedures
4. Conduct audiometric testing	4.1 Select and conduct audiometric tests according to organisational procedures 4.2 Use basic audiometry equipment and instruments according to manufacturer instructions 4.3 Review test results for validity, reliability and accuracy according to organisational procedures 4.4 Identify unreliable test results and repeat testing to achieve reliable results 4.5 Clean and store equipment according to manufacturer's instructions and infection control procedures

	4.6 Record results according to Australian/New Zealand standards 4.7 Use test results to identify specific hearing loss and/or any abnormal functions
5. Make recommendations	5.1 Interpret and integrate results across test batteries to establish an overall test outcome 5.2 Discuss audiometric findings with clients, including options for hearing aids or further specialised testing 5.3 Write reports and refer client for further assessment and treatment according to organisational procedures

Foundation skills

The foundation skills essential to performance of this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

Skill	Description
Reading	· interprets organisational procedures related to audiometric testing and referrals. · interprets equipment manufacturer instructions.
Writing	· documents test results using approved templates and terminology. · writes concise and clear summaries for referrals and reports. · maintains client records in line with documentation standards.
Oral communication	· uses clear, respectful language to explain audiometric test procedures and obtain informed consent. · uses active listening and questioning techniques to clarify client expectations and concerns.
Numeracy	· interprets measured values and threshold levels.
Learning	· retrieves and evaluates information sources. · operates and monitors equipment safely and efficiently. · reflects on own practice and modify approach as needed.

Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for HLTAUD008 Conduct audiometric testing

Performance Evidence

The candidate must show evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the job role. There must be evidence that the candidate has:

- followed organisational procedures and protocols to independently conduct reliable and accurate audiometric tests for at least 15 different adult clients, including:
 - clients of varying ages, genders, and cultural backgrounds
 - clients with varying degree and types of hearing loss

While conducting the above audiometric testing, there must be evidence that the candidate has:

- selected and performed each of the following on at least one occasion:
 - pure-tone audiometry using air conduction
 - pure-tone audiometry using bone conduction with masking
 - speech audiometry with performance intensity function
 - speech audiometry with masking
 - impedance audiometry with tympanometry
 - impedance audiometry with ipsilateral reflexes
- integrated and validated results across the entire test battery to establish an overall audiometric picture for all clients
- determined the type of hearing loss based on test results for all clients
- recognised and addressed potential inconsistencies for all clients
- used a client-centred approach with all clients to:
 - communicate with clients
 - confirm client understanding
 - provide explanations of procedures, results and recommended next steps
 - provide opportunities for client to ask questions
- referred at least 3 clients for further assessment and treatment according to organisational procedures

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the work role. This includes knowledge of:

- national and state/territory legal and ethical requirements, including:
 - contractual obligations
 - duty of care
 - informed consent
 - privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
 - records management
- Australian/New Zealand and international standards that apply to audiometric tests, including:
 - physical environment requirements as per Australian New Zealand standards
 - equipment calibration
- standard infection control precautions in audiometric testing
- work roles, including:
 - responsibilities and limitations
 - boundaries of job role
 - indicators for referral
 - relationship with other health professionals
 - difference between generalist and specialist functions in audiometric testing
- causes and types of hearing loss
- contraindications for hearing assessments
- auditory processing disorder (APD)
- characteristics of audiometric tests, including:
 - purpose of different tests
 - materials that can be used
 - suitability of tests for different clients
 - reliability and validity of tests
 - transducers including headphones, insert earphones, bone conductor, free field)
 - stimuli including pure tone, warble, narrow band noise, broad band noises, speech
- hearing assessment battery elements:
 - case history and identifying referral pathways
 - otoscopy
 - types of audiometric testing:
 - air conduction
 - bone conduction

- speech discrimination
- speech reception threshold (SRT)
- ipsi/contralateral reflex testing
- reflex decay
- masking techniques:
 - pure tone masking
 - speech masking
- tympanometry:
 - purpose and application in testing middle ear function.
- other objective tests:
 - otoacoustic emissions (OAES)
 - auditory brainstem responses (ABRS)
 - cortical auditory evoked potentials (CAEPS)

Assessment Conditions

The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
 - audiometric testing equipment that meets requirements of relevant Australian/New Zealand standards
 - appropriate testing environment
 - documentation that meets industry-recognised notation standards
 - organisational procedures relevant to conducting audiometric testing
- modelling of industry operating conditions, including:
 - problem solving activities
 - time constraints for completion of testing
 - provision of services to individuals with varied needs

Assessors must satisfy the current Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) /AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

Assessment of performance evidence may be in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents a real workplace.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
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HLTAUD001 Assess hearing	Not equivalent	Changes in unit title and unit outcome. Major changes in unit application, elements and performance criteria, performance evidence, knowledge evidence and assessment conditions. Foundation skills added.
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Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>.