



**Australian Government**

# **HLTAHA013 Provide support in dysphagia management**

**Release: 1**

## HLTAHA013 Provide support in dysphagia management

### Modification History

| Release   | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Release 1 | <p>This version was released in <i>HLT Health Training Package release 2.0</i> and meets the requirements of the 2012 Standards for Training Packages.</p> <p>Significant changes to the elements and performance criteria. New evidence requirements for assessment including volume and frequency requirements. Minimum work hours added. Removal of pre-requisite. Significant change to knowledge evidence.</p> |

### Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to assist a speech pathologist to support clients participating in therapy programs to improve swallowing and/or to maintain independence in the management of dysphagia.

This unit applies to allied health assistants and should be performed under the direction and supervision (direct, indirect or remote) of an allied health professional.

*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.*

### Elements and Performance Criteria

#### ELEMENT

#### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

*Elements define the essential outcomes*

*Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.*

1. Prepare for support of treatment and monitoring programs to promote safe swallowing and eating

1.1 Obtain information about requirements from the speech pathologist  
1.2 Determine need for interpreter where required  
1.3 Confer with speech pathologist about any ambiguities or requirements outside scope of role and responsibilities as defined by the organisation

2. Deliver therapeutic program

2.1 Obtain consent from the individual client, or a third

**ELEMENT****PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

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under supervision of speech pathologist

party where the individual is not in a position to provide this consent independently, before commencing the program

2.2 Confirm client/carer's understanding of requirements of the therapeutic program

2.3 Provide mealtime assistance to client, under instruction of speech pathologist, including the reinforcement of positioning and strategies to support safe swallowing and maximum level of independence of eating and drinking

2.4 Prepare texture modified foods and fluids as determined by the speech pathologist and in accordance with the food safety program of the organisation

2.5 Provide the client with relevant information and advice, as instructed by the speech pathologist, at a level and pace appropriate to the client's level of understanding, culture and background, preferred way of communication and need

2.6 Refer questions outside scope of role and responsibilities as defined by the organisation to speech pathologist and/or relevant member of health care team

2.7 Provide client with sufficient time, opportunity and encouragement to practise existing and newly developed skills

2.8 Provide set up and support of the client during assessment of swallowing, performed by speech pathologist

2.9 Carry out supplementary treatment programs as instructed by the speech pathologist

2.10 Identify adverse reactions/events associated with dysphagia and respond according to the detailed risk management framework

3. Monitor client's management of dysphagia in consultation with speech pathologist and care team

3.1 Work with the speech pathologist, care team and the individual to identify and record areas of positive progress and success and specific difficulties arising

3.2 Reinforce constructive feedback and advice provided

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by the care team about the client's approach and ability to manage their dysphagia

3.3 Support and encourage client to maintain and enhance their efforts to manage dysphagia

3.4 Reinforce the benefits of continuing to practice and develop skills and knowledge for dysphagia management

3.5 Identify adverse reactions and/or events associated with dysphagia and respond according to the detailed risk management framework

4. Comply with supervisory requirements

4.1 Refer to speech pathologist when additional input from health professional is required

4.2 Seek assistance when client presents with needs or signs outside limits of own authority, skills and/or knowledge

4.3 Report client difficulties to the supervising allied health professional for advice before continuing the program

4.4 Participate in supervision processes with the treating allied health professional in accordance with organisational protocol

5. Document client information

5.1 Use accepted protocols to document information relating to the treatment program in line with organisation requirements

5.2 Provide accurate and prompt feedback to the speech pathologist and client's care team to support future planning

5.3 Use appropriate terminology to document symptomatic expression of identified problems related to the therapeutic exercise program

## Foundation Skills

*The Foundation Skills describe those required skills (such as language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills) that are essential to performance.*

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

## Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

## Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>