



Australian Government

HLTAHA014 Assist and support the use of augmentative and alternative communication systems

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	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. 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.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to support clients who use total communication systems, including the preparation of resources.

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 the development of augmentative and alternative communication systems

- 1.1 Obtain information about requirements from the speech pathologist
- 1.2 Confirm the communication goals with the speech pathologist
- 1.3 Determine need for interpreter
- 1.4 Confer with allied health professional about any ambiguities or requirements outside scope of role and responsibilities as defined by the organisation

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements define the essential outcomes

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

2. Assist in the development of augmentative and alternative communication systems

2.1 Confirm the nature of the communication system and implications for resource requirements with speech pathologist

2.2 Confirm client's previous and current abilities with the speech pathologist to inform choice and presentation of resources

2.3 Select resources following speech pathologist's directions

2.4 Consult with speech pathologist to ensure that resources are appropriate to the individual and their communication system, the type of therapy and the specified communication goals

2.5 Identify existing resources, adapt them and use them in an imaginative and flexible manner within the directions of the speech pathologist

2.6 Make resources as directed by speech pathologist

2.7 Ensure resources are not hazardous to the individual or others, and satisfy health and safety requirements

3. Support the use of augmentative and alternative communication systems

3.1 Identify the type of communication system used by a client prior to making contact

3.2 Make appropriate power supply available

3.3 Prepare appropriate resources and equipment to facilitate communication via the communication system

3.4 Set out equipment and furniture for client comfort and optimum access to the communication system, in line with health and safety procedures and guidelines and according to the directions of the speech pathologist

3.5 Liaise with the speech pathologist and other relevant health professionals to assist the client to access the system in regard to physical comfort and any specific positioning and mobility requirements

3.6 Use appropriate mode of communication in communicating with the client

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements define the essential outcomes

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

4. Comply with supervisory requirements

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

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

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

5. Clean and store equipment

5.1 Clean any material and equipment according to manufacturers requirements

5.2 Store material and equipment according to manufacturers requirements and organisation protocols

5.3 Report equipment faults to appropriate person

6. Document client information

6.1 Use accepted protocols to document information relating to the program to assist with the use of a communication system in line with organisation requirements

6.2 Use appropriate terminology in reporting

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>

Assessment Requirements for HLTAHA014 Assist and support the use of augmentative and alternative communication systems

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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:

- provided therapeutic guidance for 3 clients in the use of communication systems under the direction of a speech pathologist, 1 in a simulated environment and 2 in the workplace, including:
 - positioning the client and managing the environment for optimum use of a communication system
 - designing and making communication systems to meet individual needs
- performed the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during a period of at least 120 hours of work

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:

- communication needs of clients with congenital, developmental, acquired and progressive disabilities
- augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems and strategies available
- criteria used in the selection and application of AAC devices for people with complex communication needs
- work health and safety (WHS) policies and procedures that relate to the allied health assistant's role in implementing speech therapy programs

Assessment Conditions

All aspects of the performance evidence must have been demonstrated using simulation prior to being demonstrated in a therapeutic workplace under the direction and supervision (direct, indirect, remote) as determined by the speech pathologist and/or occupational therapist.

The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including individualised plans and any relevant equipment outlined in the plan
- modelling of industry operating conditions and contingencies, including provision of services to real people

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

Links

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