



**Australian Government**

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

**Release: 1**

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

### 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.</p> |

### 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>