



**Australian Government**

# **HLTAHA035 Provide support in dysphagia management**

**Release: 1**

# HLTAHA035 Provide support in dysphagia management

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to provide assistance to a Speech Pathologist. Work includes supporting persons participating in therapy programs to improve swallowing or to maintain independence in the management of dysphagia.

This unit applies to Allied Health Assistants and should be performed under the direct, indirect or remote supervision and delegation of a Speech Pathologist.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Allied Health Assistant Framework, Commonwealth and State or Territory legislation, Australian standards and industry codes of practice.

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

## Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

## Competency Field

Allied Health

## Unit Sector

Health

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

*Elements describe the essential outcomes*

1. Receive delegation and gather information.

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

- 1.1. Obtain written or verbal delegation for an allied health activity from the Speech Pathologist.
- 1.2. Obtain information from delegating Speech Pathologist, according to organisational policy and procedures.
- 1.3. Discuss and confirm with delegating Speech Pathologist work health and safety (WHS) requirements, the need for an interpreter and treatment requirements.

2. Deliver therapeutic program as delegated by Speech Pathologist.
  - 2.1. Ensure consent is obtained from the individual, or a third party where applicable.
  - 2.2. Confirm the therapeutic outcomes defined in the program with the person and the Speech Pathologist.
  - 2.3. Provide mealtime assistance to the person, as delegated by the Speech Pathologist, including positioning and strategies to support swallowing and maximum level of independence and safety of eating and drinking.
  - 2.4. Prepare texture modified foods and fluids as delegated by the Speech Pathologist and in accordance with organisational procedures.
  - 2.5. Use motivators that reflect age and communication ability of the person.
  - 2.6. Provide the person time, opportunity and encouragement to practise existing and newly developed skills.
  - 2.7. Support the person during assessment of swallowing, performed by the delegating Speech Pathologist.
  - 2.8. Deliver supplementary treatment programs as delegated by the Speech Pathologist.
3. Monitor management of dysphagia with Speech Pathologist and care team.
  - 3.1. Identify and record areas of positive progress and success and specific difficulties with the delegating Speech Pathologist, care team and the individual.
  - 3.2. Provide feedback and advice provided by the care team about the person's approach and ability to manage their dysphagia.
  - 3.3. Reinforce the benefits of continuing to practise and develop skills and knowledge for dysphagia management.
  - 3.4. Identify adverse reactions or events associated with dysphagia and escalate according to organisational procedures.
4. Comply with supervisory requirements.
  - 4.1. Consult with delegated Speech Pathologist when additional information is required.
  - 4.2. Seek assistance when the person presents with needs or signs outside limits of own scope of role, skills or knowledge.
  - 4.3. Report the person's difficulties to the delegating Speech Pathologist before continuing the program.
  - 4.4. Participate in supervision processes with the delegating Speech Pathologist in accordance with organisational procedures.
5. Document information.
  - 5.1. Document information relating to the person's rehabilitation program in line with organisational requirements.
  - 5.2. Provide regular feedback to the delegating Speech

Pathologist.

- 5.3. Use professional terminology to document symptomatic expression of identified problems related to the person's rehabilitation program.

## Foundation Skills

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

## Unit Mapping Information

Supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTAHA013 Provide support in dysphagia management.

## 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 HLTAHA035 Provide support in dysphagia management

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- deliver therapeutic support and skill development for three people with dysphagia, one in simulation and two in the workplace
- perform the activities outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during a period of at least 120 hours of allied health assistance work. At least 60% of this work must be carried out in an allied health workplace. The remaining 40% may be carried out in a simulated environment, if an allied health workplace is unavailable.

## Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrate the knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- protocols for escalation of risks
- allied health core competencies:
  - person-centred care
  - individual therapy
  - group therapy
  - communication of information
  - equipment and environment
- scope of role of the Allied Health Assistant and Speech Pathologist
- complications of dysphagia and an awareness of risk management protocols in response to adverse reactions or events
- basic anatomy and physiology of body systems pertaining to structures affecting eating and swallowing
- normal processes of eating and swallowing and changes to swallowing that occur over the lifespan
- organisational policies and procedures in relation to:
  - confidentiality:
    - privacy
    - disclosure
  - duty of care
  - documentation:

- reporting
- recording data
- written communication to Speech Pathologist
- professional behaviour and presentation
- infection control practices
- work health and safety (WHS)
- manual handling
- supervision and delegation
- food safety program and procedures
- informed consent
- postures and positioning for safe swallowing
- techniques used in assessment of eating and swallowing, including:
  - bedside assessment
  - video fluoroscopy
- disorders of eating and swallowing that may arise from:
  - acquired injury and disease
  - congenital abnormalities
  - degenerative disease
  - developmental delay
- principles of empowering the older person
- principles of empowering people living with disability or serious mental illness
- changes related to ageing
- concepts of holistic health and wellbeing
- social determinants of health
- concepts of the medical model, the biopsychosocial models and the human rights-based approach of allied health interventions
- principles of choice and control
- concept of reablement.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills may be demonstrated in the workplace, or in a simulated environment, as per the conditions outlined in the performance evidence.

Assessment must ensure:

- access to suitable facilities, equipment and resources that reflect real working conditions and model industry operating conditions and contingencies
- access to individualised plans and any relevant equipment outlined in the plan
- access to organisational policies and procedures
- opportunities for engagement with real people accessing allied health services.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations requirements for assessors, and:

- be a Certificate IV qualified Allied Health Assistant with a minimum of three years of professional experience in allied health services, or
- a registered Speech Pathologist.

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