



Australian Government

HLTAHA036 Assist and support the use of augmentative and alternative communication system

Release: 1

HLTAHA036 Assist and support the use of augmentative and alternative communication system

Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to provide assistance to a Speech Pathologist. Work includes supporting persons who use communication systems, including the preparation of resources.

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 work health and safety and treatment

- requirements with delegating Speech Pathologist.
2. Prepare augmentative and alternative communication systems development.
 - 2.1. Identify any treatment requirements outside scope of role and discuss with delegated Speech Pathologist.
 - 2.2. Determine the person's availability in accordance with organisational procedures.
 - 2.3. Confirm with the person and delegating Speech Pathologist the need for an interpreter.
 3. Assist in the development of augmentative and alternative communication systems.
 - 3.1. Confirm the nature of the communication system and implications for resource requirements with delegating Speech Pathologist.
 - 3.2. Confirm person's previous and current abilities with the delegating Speech Pathologist to inform choice and presentation of resources.
 - 3.3. Select and confirm suitability of resources, communication system, type of therapy and specified communication goals as delegated by Speech Pathologist.
 - 3.4. Identify existing usable resources, as delegated by the Speech Pathologist.
 - 3.5. Confirm and make resources ensuring they comply with work health and safety (WHS) requirements as delegated by Speech Pathologist.
 4. Support the use of augmentative and alternative communication systems.
 - 4.1. Identify the type of communication system and availability of power supply to be used by the person prior to making contact.
 - 4.2. Prepare resources and equipment to facilitate communication via the communication system.
 - 4.3. Set out equipment and furniture and assist the person to ensure optimum access to the communication system, in line with work health and safety procedures and delegation from Speech Pathologist.
 - 4.4. Communicate with the person using different modes of communication.
 5. Comply with supervisory requirements.
 - 5.1. Consult with delegating Speech Pathologist when additional information is required.
 - 5.2. Seek assistance when the person presents with needs or signs outside limits of own scope of role, skills or knowledge.
 - 5.3. Report the person's difficulties to the delegating Speech Pathologist before continuing the program.
 - 5.4. Participate in supervision processes with the delegating Speech Pathologist in accordance with organisational procedures.

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| 6. Clean and store equipment. | 6.1. Clean materials and equipment in accordance with manufacturer requirements. |
| | 6.2. Store material and equipment in accordance with manufacturer requirements and organisation procedures. |
| | 6.3. Report equipment faults according to organisational procedures. |
| 7. Document information. | 7.1. Document information relating to the person's rehabilitation program in line with organisational requirements. |
| | 7.2. Provide regular feedback to the delegating Speech Pathologist. |
| | 7.3. 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 HLTAHA014 Assist and support the use of augmentative and alternative communication systems.

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 HLTAHA036 Assist and support the use of augmentative and alternative communication system

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:

- provide therapeutic guidance for three people in the use of communication systems under the delegation of a Speech Pathologist, one in simulation and two in the workplace, including:
 - positioning the person and managing the environment for use of a communication system
 - preparing communication systems to meet individual needs and delegating Speech Pathologist directions
- 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:

- communication needs of persons with congenital, developmental, acquired and progressive disabilities
- augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) systems and strategies
- selection and application of AAC devices for people with complex communication needs
- protocols for escalation of risks
- allied health core competencies:
 - person-centred care
 - individual therapy
 - group therapy
 - communication of information
 - equipment and environment
- 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
- discrimination
- informed consent
- scope of role of the Allied Health Assistant and Allied Health Professional
- manufacturer instructions for equipment
- 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 manufacturer instructions
- 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.

Links

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