



Australian Government

HLTAHCS008 Provide support to women with cancer

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to provide information and support to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients with cancer and their families to enable informed choices about treatment and ongoing care. Support would be provided to female clients of any age with cancers that are particular to females, or with other cancers that affect both males and females.

It requires the ability to assist clients to participate in the planning of their ongoing treatment and care, take self-management approaches, and access cancer support services. It covers the coordination of follow-up care for clients with cancer.

This unit is specific to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people working as health workers or health practitioners. They work as part of a multidisciplinary primary health care team to provide primary health care services to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients.

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

No regulatory requirement for certification, occupational or business licensing is linked to this unit at the time of publication. For information about practitioner registration and accredited courses of study, contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (ATSIHPBA).

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Health Care and Support

Unit Sector

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to

*essential outcomes**demonstrate achievement of the element.*

1. Assist women with self-management approaches for cancer.
 - 1.1. Provide information about cancer, treatment and health care options in plain language using culturally appropriate and safe communication.
 - 1.2. Explain to client their role in managing the disease and elements of self-management.
 - 1.3. Assist client to express their needs and preferences and encourage their own choices for treatments and health care.
 - 1.4. Assist clients with cancer to actively participate in the ongoing development of multidisciplinary care plans.
2. Provide resources and information about cancer support services.
 - 2.1. Provide culturally appropriate consumer based education resources about relevant cancer and its treatment to clients and their families.
 - 2.2. Inform clients about relevant cancer support services available in the community, state or territory.
 - 2.3. Facilitate access to cancer support services according to client needs and preferences.
3. Provide information and support to women with cancer.
 - 3.1. Communicate consistently in culturally appropriate and safe ways with client, using plain language.
 - 3.2. Provide information on key psychosocial issues facing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people with cancer.
 - 3.3. Identify clients at higher risk of psychosocial distress and determine need for assessment.
 - 3.4. Facilitate referrals for clients with cancer according to multidisciplinary clinical partnerships.
 - 3.5. Discuss barriers faced by client in accessing cancer treatments and recommend resolutions.
 - 3.6. Explain treatments, side effects and self-care strategies according to client needs.
 - 3.7. Explain to client importance of regular check-ups, tests and reassessments in the management of cancer.
 - 3.8. Provide information about cancer recovery and what this may mean in relation to family, community and returning to work.
 - 3.9. Provide information about advanced care planning and palliative care when requested by client, their family or community.
4. Complete documentation and provide follow-up care for women with cancer.
 - 4.1. Update client records to include details of services, information and referrals provided to client, according to organisational procedures.
 - 4.2. Plan and provide continuity of care in consultation with client and multidisciplinary team.
 - 4.3. Organise follow-up care for clients with cancer using

organisational registers.

- 4.4. Identify when clients are overdue for health care checks and employ active-recall strategies.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Reading skills to:	- interpret detailed and sometimes unfamiliar client records, involving medical terminology and abbreviations - interpret detailed and sometimes unfamiliar plain language consumer based education resources.
Writing skills to:	use fundamental sentence structure, health terminology and abbreviations to complete forms and reports that require factual and subjective information.
Oral communication skills to:	- use language and terms sensitive to clients' values and emotional state - ask open and closed probe questions and actively listen to determine client needs and understanding of information provided.
Learning skills to:	use information provided in credible evidence based consumer resources to update and extend knowledge of cancer, treatments and available support services.
Initiative and enterprise skills to:	source information that meets the specific needs of clients and families.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTAHW0036 Provide information and support to women with breast cancer.

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 HLTAHCS008 Provide support to women with cancer

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 support to a total of three Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander female clients with cancer to collectively include:
 - people across the lifespan
 - people with different types of cancer
- for each of the three clients, and according to their individual needs:
 - source credible consumer based education resources from relevant cancer support services, and clearly explain these to the client
 - provide clear information and explanations about relevant forms of clinical cancer treatment and their side effects that collectively covers the following across the three clients:
 - surgery including mastectomy and breast conserving surgery
 - radiotherapy
 - chemotherapy
 - immunotherapy
 - hormonal therapy
 - pain relief
 - provide clear explanations about self-care strategies that the client can use to monitor and manage her disease, pain and side effects from treatments
 - source information about relevant cancer support services, explain their key features and advise the client how to access services
 - plan and organise continuity of cancer care in consultation with the client and multidisciplinary team
 - use organisational registers and recall strategies to book two appointments for cancer health care checks
 - document, in client records, accurate details of each client contact including details of services, information and referrals provided.

Knowledge Evidence

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

- organisational procedures for client record keeping
- key elements of the psychosocial impact of cancer and the importance to health outcomes of managing this aspect of health:
 - emotional
 - psychological
 - physical
 - practical
- techniques used to communicate with clients and families dealing with the emotional impact of cancer diagnosis and treatment
- plain language:
 - definitions of cancer
 - definitions of breast cancer:
 - Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS)
 - early breast cancer
 - secondary breast cancer
 - explanations of how cancer multiples
 - explanations of metastasis
 - analogies that can be used to explain cancer and its spread including the weed analogy
- for women's cancers and for other cancers prevalent in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander populations including bowel, liver, lung, gynaecological and breast cancers:
 - basic pathophysiology sufficient to describe the impact and functional changes on cancer affected body organs and systems
 - overview of the common forms of treatment including their aim and their side effects:
 - surgery, including mastectomy and breast conserving surgery for breast cancer
 - radiotherapy
 - chemotherapy
 - immunotherapy
 - hormonal therapy
 - pain relief
 - common self-care strategies that can be used by clients to monitor and manage their disease, pain and side effects from treatments
- the role of traditional and bush healers relevant to the local community
- the elements of client self-management of cancer, and the importance of the client's role in managing the disease:
 - knowing about the particular type of cancer
 - sharing in decision-making for care plans, treatments and ongoing health care
 - following an agreed care plan
 - monitoring and managing signs and symptoms as well as side effects of treatments
 - managing the impact on physical, emotional and social life
 - adopting a healthy lifestyle
 - accessing and using cancer support services

- factors that may impact on client choice of treatment and health care:
 - adherence to traditional and spiritual belief systems
 - perceptions of risk and benefits
 - potential for physical disability or impaired function and their impacts on ability to work, family and personal relationships
 - ability to manage treatments and ongoing self-care
- the importance of:
 - current and credible consumer based education resources about cancer and its treatment in the client decision-making process
 - patient treatment choices on cancer outcomes
 - respecting client values and choice of treatment, and how to provide balanced and evidence based information to assist with decisions
 - determining treatments and planning for supportive care services before treatment starts
- barriers and difficulties faced by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and their families who need to travel or relocate to distant centres to access treatments
- cancer support services available in the community, state or territory:
 - for cancer in general and for particular types of women's cancers
 - specialist services available to women of different ages, and to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
 - services to support clients who are caring for family members with life-limiting illness or who are at the end stages of life
 - how to access information about the types of services and consumer based education resources they provide
 - how clients can access services and the role of health workers and practitioners in facilitating access
- how multidisciplinary team members work together to coordinate cancer treatments and care, and how to facilitate referrals
- the importance of continuity of care for clients with cancer, and support mechanisms used to assist clients with:
 - managing the side effects of treatments
 - physical and psychosocial care
 - recovery and survivorship
 - understanding the need for ongoing screening in survivorship, and types of screening programs available for male and other cancers
- how to use client information systems and recall functions to follow-up clients for care and for regular check-ups
- the principles and philosophy of palliative care and the role of different members of the multidisciplinary care team in discussing palliative care with clients
- for palliation:
 - methods to manage advanced symptoms and pain for people with terminal cancer
 - methods to manage the psychosocial aspects of symptoms and pain

- for advanced care directives:
 - their purpose, and difference between the purpose of wills, powers of attorney and enduring guardianships
 - inclusions including the person responsible for making medical decisions when client is unable, treatments the client would like or would refuse, and personal values and beliefs about things such as treatments and dying
 - how they are used by medical practitioners, nurses and other members of a multidisciplinary care team to provide end of life care
 - overview of legal requirements for the local state or territory, and considerations for review and renewal.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a health service workplace within a multidisciplinary primary health care team.

Evidence of performance must be gathered:

- during on-the-job assessments in the workplace under live conditions while interacting with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, or
- during off-the-job assessments in the workplace, not under live conditions, using simulated activities while interacting with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.

Evidence of workplace performance can be gathered and reported through third party report processes. (Refer to the Companion Volume Implementation Guide for information on third party reporting.)

Evidence can be supplemented by assessments in a simulated workplace environment using simulated activities, scenarios or case studies only when:

- the full range of situations covered by the unit cannot be provided in the individual's workplace, or
- situations covered by the unit occur only rarely in the individual's workplace.

Assessments must respect the client's cultural beliefs about gender roles, including their choice about the gender of the learner health worker or practitioner. The client's choice must be determined prior to any assessment activity for this unit.

Assessment must ensure the use of:

- client records
- current and credible consumer based education resources from cancer support services covering women's and other cancers, and clinical treatments
- information about different types of cancer support services designed to meet the needs of women of different ages, and those for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people if available
- organisational procedures for client record keeping.

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

- be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person who has applied the skills and knowledge covered in this unit of competency through experience working as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health worker or practitioner, or
- be a registered health practitioner with experience relevant to this unit of competency and be accompanied by, or have assessments validated by, an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person.

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