



Australian Government

HLTDEN018 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program

Release: 2

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 2	Release 2 HLTDEN018 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program supersedes and is equivalent to Release 1 HLTDEN018 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program. Updated: Mapping details and minor corrections.
Release 1	HLTDEN018 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTDEN004 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program.

Application

This unit of competency describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to implement an individualised oral hygiene program and promote oral health.

This unit applies to dental assistants and to other health care workers who are actively involved in promoting the general well-being of patients through promotion of healthy eating habits and good oral health.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State/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

Unit code	Unit title
HLTDA303D	Prepare for and assist with oral health care procedures <i>or</i>
HLTDEN001	Prepare for and assist with oral health care procedures <i>or</i>
HLTDEN015	Prepare for and assist with dental procedures

Competency Field

Dental Assisting

Unit Sector

Dental

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Implement a prescribed oral health education program.

2. Demonstrate oral hygiene techniques to patient or carer.

3. Provide appropriate advice on cariogenic food and drinks.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

- 1.1. Follow a prescribed oral health education program.
- 1.2. Review patient's current oral hygiene routines.
- 1.3. Provide detailed information on the causes and prevention of oral diseases to patient or carer using language that can be easily understood.
- 1.4. Provide an environment for patient or carer to ask questions and become involved in improving their oral health.
- 1.5. Actively encourage patient or carer to follow an effective individual oral health program.
- 1.6. Implement a review strategy to determine the effectiveness of the oral health education program.
- 2.1. Use a plaque index system to accurately record scores and interpret findings.
- 2.2. Demonstrate oral hygiene techniques specific to patient needs.
- 2.3. Provide information about the advantages of different oral hygiene techniques and involve patient or carer in the decision-making process.
- 2.4. Assist patient or carer in implementing relevant oral hygiene techniques.
- 2.5. Demonstrate how to use aids specific to patient needs to achieve and maintain effective oral hygiene.
- 2.6. Evaluate patient or carer oral hygiene techniques and provide further instruction when appropriate.
- 2.7. Provide information appropriately on the effectiveness and availability of fluoride as directed by the practitioner.
- 3.1. Involve patient or carer in a review of current dietary habits.
- 3.2. Develop and give patient or carer appropriate information on acids and fermentable carbohydrates and confirm understanding.

- 3.3. Actively encourage patient or carer to ask questions or express views.
- 4. Perform a saliva diagnostic test and record the results.
 - 4.1. Provide full details of procedure to patient or carer.
 - 4.2. Provide specific instructions to patient or carer before the appointment where a saliva diagnostic test is planned.
 - 4.3. Select and prepare appropriate materials for a saliva diagnostic test.
 - 4.4. Perform a resting or unstimulated saliva test and record the result in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
 - 4.5. Perform a stimulated saliva test and record the result in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
- 5. Implement a prescribed prevention program to suit an individual patient.
 - 5.1. Provide information as directed by the practitioner, on lifestyle change to assist with diminished salivary flow.
 - 5.2. Provide information on materials that can provide additional external protection to the teeth.
 - 5.3. Explain methods to increase salivary stimulation as directed by the practitioner.
 - 5.4. Assist patient or carers to implement prescribed oral hygiene programs in response to saliva quality and composition.

Foundation Skills

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

Unit Mapping Information

HLTDEN018 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTDEN004 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program.

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 HLTDEN018 Implement an individualised oral hygiene program

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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 comprehensive information to at least five different patients including:
 - information on the prevention of oral diseases
 - advice on and demonstration of proper oral hygiene techniques
 - emphasising benefits of good oral hygiene to inform and motivate behaviour change
- perform at least one unstimulated and one stimulated saliva test on a patient, record results and provide information to patient as directed by the dental practitioner.

Knowledge Evidence

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

- fundamental oral anatomy including:
 - structures of the oral cavity, hard and soft palate, lateral and posterior borders of the oral cavity, tongue and floor of the mouth
 - teeth form and function
 - dentition including arrangement of the teeth, naming and coding of teeth
- plaque and its differing roles in the development of dental caries and periodontal disease
- saliva and its role in maintenance of oral health including:

- protecting teeth by neutralising acid
- acting as a lubricant
- delivering calcium, phosphate and fluoride to the tooth surface
- biochemical, pathological or pharmacological influences on diagnostic salivary testing and results
- factors that lead to the development of dental caries including:
 - bacteria in dental plaque
 - diet
 - susceptible tooth surfaces
 - socioeconomic background including dietary intake
 - mental health conditions and awareness of oral health issues
 - eruption time of teeth
- factors that prevent and control dental caries:
 - increasing salivary flow and optimising its composition.
 - fluorides
 - plaque control and removal
 - dietary change
 - oral health education
- factors that lead to the development of periodontal disease including:
 - bacteria in dental plaque
 - accumulation of plaque and calculus
 - smoking
 - medications
 - eruption time of teeth
- factors that prevent and control periodontal disease including:
 - oral health education
 - plaque control
- causes, and prevention, of non caries tooth wear:
 - erosion
 - abrasion
 - attrition
- role of properly constructed and fitted mouthguards in preventing dental injuries
- fundamental knowledge of the impact of smoking on oral soft tissues
- fundamental knowledge of systemic conditions which influence the development of oral disease
- local oral factors which influence the development of oral disease
- modifications to oral health education programs related to special needs due to disability, aged care and children's needs
- oral appliances and their impact on oral hygiene maintenance
- legislative requirements related to the use of fluoride in dentistry.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a dental clinic workplace or in a simulated environment that reflects workplace conditions.

Assessment must ensure:

- access to suitable facilities, equipment and resources including:
 - personal protective equipment
 - cleaning equipment
 - disposable and non-disposable instruments
- modelling of industry operating conditions including access to people for simulations and scenarios in dental assisting work

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations' requirements for assessors and hold a minimum of five years clinical dental experience.

Links

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