



Australian Government

HLTDEN024 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people

Release: 2

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 2	Release 2 HLTDEN024 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people supersedes and is equivalent to Release 1 HLTDEN024 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people. Updated: Mapping details and minor corrections.
Release 1	HLTDEN024 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people supersedes and is equivalent to HLTDEN010 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people.

Application

This unit of competency describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to promote oral health for older people.

This unit applies to dental assistants and other health care workers who are actively involved in promoting the general well-being of older patients through the 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

Nil

Competency Field

Dental Assisting

Unit Sector

Dental

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Assess the oral health needs of an older person.

2. Provide support for the maintenance of oral hygiene for older persons.

3. Implement practical solutions to promote oral health.

4. Maintain oral health of people in residential aged care.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

- 1.1. Check medical and dental history with patient or carer to confirm up-to-date information and confirm with treating practitioner prior to treatment.
- 1.2. Actively encourage patient to discuss oral health problems without embarrassment.
- 1.3. Identify oral health problems for older people and their relationship to general health problems.
- 1.4. Identify individualised factors that increase the risk of oral disease for older persons.
- 1.5. Look in patient's mouth while cleaning or assisting with oral care.
- 1.6. Identify patients with natural teeth, those who wear dentures and those who are non-denture wearers.
- 1.7. Identify problems that require referral to a dental practitioner.
- 2.1. Ensure flexibility of oral hygiene instruction taking into consideration patient's individual circumstances.
- 2.2. Provide an appropriate environment for oral hygiene instruction.
- 2.3. Plan and provide oral hygiene information to patients and carers using language and in a manner they can understand.
- 3.1. Explain to patients and carers the importance of regular dental care to maintain quality of life.
- 3.2. Recommend lifestyle changes to assist the older person's diminished salivary flow in consultation with dental practitioner.
- 3.3. Provide appropriate information to patients and carers for healthy food habits that support oral health.
- 3.4. Actively encourage patients or carers to clean teeth or dentures after meals.
- 3.5. Engage carers with appropriate oral health care promotion programs and resources.
- 4.1. Ensure all removable dentures are identifiable with patient's details.
- 4.2. Record oral health in the patient's personal care plan.
- 4.3. Implement individual oral health programs in consultation with dental practitioner.

- 4.4. Assist patients with special needs to clean their teeth.
- 4.5. Assist patients or their carers to clean and maintain dentures.

Foundation Skills

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

Unit Mapping Information

HLTDEN024 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people supersedes and is equivalent to HLTDEN010 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people.

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 HLTDEN024 Implement an oral hygiene program for older people

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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 three different older people or their carers including:
 - information regarding the prevention of oral disease.
 - advice on and demonstration of oral hygiene techniques.
- select and prepare special aids for oral hygiene to assist at least three different older patients with limited dexterity.
- implement prevention programs to suit three different older patient's oral health care needs.

Knowledge Evidence

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

- national and State or Territory legal and ethical requirements and considerations for dental assisting work including:
 - codes of practice
 - discrimination
 - duty of care
 - informed consent and statutory requirements of consent

- current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) guidelines and practice standards
- privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
- records management
- work role boundaries including responsibilities and limitations
- work health and safety
- 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, 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 the maintenance of oral health including:
 - protecting teeth by neutralising acid
 - acting as a lubricant
 - delivering calcium, phosphate and fluoride to the tooth surface
- 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
 - age 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
 - age of teeth
- factors that prevent and control periodontal disease including:
 - oral health education
 - plaque control
- causes and prevention of non-caries tooth wear including:
 - erosion

- abrasion
- attrition
- economic and psychological factors that may affect the oral health of older people
- the impact of smoking on oral soft tissues
- systemic conditions and their pharmacology treatments that influence the development of oral disease
- modification to standard toothbrushes and other aids for oral hygiene to meet the needs of patients with reduced dexterity
- modifications to oral health education programs related to special needs due to disability, older age and dementia.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a dental clinic workplace with the addition of simulations and scenarios where the full range of contexts and situations cannot be provided in the workplace.

Assessment must ensure:

- access to suitable facilities, equipment and resources including:
 - personal protective equipment
 - cleaning equipment
 - disposable and non-disposable instruments
 - current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) guidelines and practice standards
 - current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) infection control and record keeping guidelines
 - follow organisational infection control guidelines and procedures
- 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 5 years clinical dental experience.

Links

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<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>