



Australian Government

HLTOHC007 Recognise and respond to oral health issues

Release: 2

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 2	Release 2 HLTOHC007 Recognise and respond to oral health issues supersedes and is equivalent to Release 1 HLTOHC007 Recognise and respond to oral health issues. Updated: Mapping details and minor corrections.
Release 1	HLTOHC007 Recognise and respond to oral health issues supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTOHC001 Recognise and respond to oral health issues.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to identify variations and recognise oral health issues through a visual check, observation of patient behaviour and habits, signs and symptoms and physical condition of patients. This enables the candidate to respond appropriately to the clinical findings to initiate follow up oral health care.

This unit applies to workers in a range of health and community services environments where their work role requires them to recognise and respond to oral health issues.

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

Nil

Unit Sector

Oral Health

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

1. Identify variations in patient behaviour and habits.

2. Undertake basic visual oral check and questioning.

3. Follow up and promote ongoing oral health care.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

- 1.1. Identify opportunities to observe patient behaviour, physical functions, capabilities and habits that may indicate oral health issues or associated pain or discomfort.
- 1.2. Observe, listen for self-reports and question patient, family or carer to determine whether the patient is experiencing pain or discomfort that may be associated with oral health issues.
- 1.3. Access relevant information on contributing factors that may produce variation from normal behaviour.
- 1.4. Apply safe manual handling techniques to support patients with special care needs.
- 2.1. Obtain consent from the patient, family or carer to conduct basic visual oral check and questioning.
- 2.2. Ensure comfort of patient by developing trust and rapport, adapting environment based on patient needs.
- 2.3. Provide support for patient's head or chin if necessary, to enhance visual access without creating discomfort for the patient.
- 2.4. Seek assistance from patient to open their own mouth to limit hand contact inside the mouth.
- 2.5. Prepare and perform basic visual oral checks in line with own work role and use of standard precautions.
- 2.6. Identify signs and symptoms of oral health issues that may indicate variation from normal and actively listen to and be aware of self-reports.
- 3.1. Complete documentation and reporting processes, using information from patient and family or carer or other relevant people as well as own observations in relation to oral health issues.
- 3.2. Discuss oral health issues with patient and family or carer in line with organisational policies and procedures and respecting patient priorities and choices.
- 3.3. Take appropriate action within work role, including liaising with supervisor in consultation with patient to ensure appropriate referral occurs.
- 3.4. Use focussed communication strategies to provide information relevant to promoting and maintaining good oral health.

- 3.5. Provide instruction to support patients to take a self-care approach to oral health in line with individual needs where possible.
- 3.6. Identify and address key barriers to management or self-management of oral health.
- 3.7. Review and monitor oral health issues.

Foundation Skills

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

Unit Mapping Information

HLTOHC007 Recognise and respond to oral health issues supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTOHC001 Recognise and respond to oral health issues.

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 HLTOHC007 Recognise and respond to oral health issues

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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:

- perform a visual oral health check on five different patients, including:
 - identifying any signs and symptoms related to oral health care issues
 - gathering relevant information from visual check and questioning to initiate appropriate follow up oral health care
 - using safe manual handling techniques as required when working with patients with special care needs.

Knowledge Evidence

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

- basic anatomy and physiology underpinning oral health, including what is considered healthy and unhealthy
- patient behaviour and habits which contribute to oral health issues
- causes and prevention of tooth decay, gum disease and tooth wear, including erosion, abrasion and attrition
- effective self-care practices for oral health including cause, control and prevention of dental plaque

- State or Territory and national government policy and programs and reporting processes for oral health accessibility to services, including availability of private and public oral health services, including eligibility for services.
- role of oral health professionals
- factors that impact on oral health, including:
 - abuse including neglect of oral health needs
 - access to dental and health services
 - alcohol, licit and illicit drugs and substances, over the counter and herbal treatments
 - correct infant feeding practices
 - damage from habitual grinding of teeth
 - diet and nutrition, including fluids and excessive intake of sugar
 - fluoride
 - general health and wellbeing
 - immunosuppressant conditions, HIV, chemotherapy and radiation
 - injury to mouth, including from a seizure
 - medical history
 - oral piercings
 - patient oral health information
 - presence of plaque and calculus
 - psychological issues, including fear of being seen without dentures or persisting with ill-fitting dentures for satisfaction of others
 - salivary function
 - smoking
 - social and cultural determinants of health
 - susceptible tooth surfaces
 - transmission of bacteria particularly from family or carer to child
 - teeth misalignment causing trauma to teeth
 - trauma to mouth as a result of an accident
- communication strategies that focus on patient needs including mental health and disabilities
- safe manual handling techniques
- organisational policies and procedures for:
 - patient privacy
 - confidentiality of patient information and disclosure
 - documentation and reporting
- healthy eating recommendations as identified in the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Australian dietary guidelines.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in the workplace with the addition of simulations and scenarios where the full range of contexts and situations cannot be provided in the workplace or may occur only rarely.

The following aspect of the performance evidence must have been demonstrated using ten simulation scenarios prior to demonstration in the workplace or with members of the general public:

- performing a visual oral health check

Assessment must ensure:

- access to suitable equipment and resources, including:
 - appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- access to current Dental board of Australia (DBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) guidelines and practice standards
- access to current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) infection control and record keeping guidelines
- access to National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) Australian dietary guidelines
- access to organisational policies and procedures for:
 - patient privacy
 - confidentiality of patient information and disclosure
 - documentation and reporting
- modelling of industry operating conditions including access to people for simulations and scenarios in oral health care work.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations' requirements for assessors.

Links

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