

RSPH Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention and Control for Special Procedures Practitioners

July 2019

Guided Learning Hours 7

Total Qualification Time 8

QiW: C00/3873/0

Ofqual: 603/4597/4

Description

The objective of the *RSPH Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention and Control for Special Procedures Practitioners* is to cover the principles of infection control through application of the 'chain of infection' and the 'standard infection control precautions' for Special Procedures Practitioners either employed, self-employed or as practitioners managing a business. It is a valuable free standing qualification that is also suitable for trainee practitioners engaged in other relevant vocational training and employment.

The purpose of this qualification is for learners to obtain a knowledge and understanding of; the importance of infection control and prevention, associated infectious and non-infectious hazards, good infection practice and controls based upon an awareness of the chain of infection and standard infection control precautions.

Special Procedures Practitioners are individuals who practice acupuncture, body piercing, electrolysis or tattooing. In Wales these are as identified in Section 57 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 and are further defined in Section 94 of that Act. In England these are identified under Section VIII of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by the Local Government Act 2003 and in Northern Ireland by The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Order 2005.

'Acupuncture' refers to the insertion of needles into an individual's tissue for remedial or therapeutic purposes, but excludes the insertion of needles into tissue for the purpose of injecting substances.

'Body piercing' refers to the perforation of an individual's skin or mucous membrane, with the view to enabling (a) jewellery, or (b) an object of a description prescribed in or under regulations, to be attached to, implanted in, or removed from the individual's body.

'Electrolysis' refers to the removal of an individual's body hairs by passing an electric current through the root by means of an inserted needle to probe.

'Tattooing' refers to the insertion of any colouring material designed to leave a semi-permanent or permanent mark (including micro pigmentation) into punctures made in an individual's skin or mucous membrane.

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Unit: Infection Prevention and Control

Unit Level: 2

Unit reference number: L/617/6112

Summary of Outcomes:

To achieve this qualification, a candidate must:

1. **Understand infectious and non-infectious hazards associated with Special Procedures, with reference to:**
 - 1.1 The role of microorganisms in infection
 - 1.2 Common non-infectious hazards associated with Special Procedures
 - 1.3 How the reaction of the skin to injury can be a risk to the individual
 - 1.4 Sources of infectious and non-infectious hazards
 - 1.5 The chain of infection in relation to Special Procedures

2. **Understand how the risks from infectious and non-infectious hazards can be controlled and the legislative requirements associated with these, with reference to:**
 - 2.1 The legal requirements for special procedure practitioners and business owners
 - 2.2 How the skin acts as a defence against infection.
 - 2.3 Safe special procedure practices and procedures for:
 - 2.3.1 Client consultation and aftercare
 - 2.3.2 Hand hygiene
 - 2.3.3 Management of special procedure environment
 - 2.3.4 Management of special procedure equipment and products
 - 2.3.5 Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation
 - 2.3.6 Personal Protective Equipment
 - 2.3.7 Management of Body Fluids
 - 2.3.8 Collection and disposal of waste
 - 2.3.9 Occupational Exposure Management

Candidates successfully achieving this qualification will have knowledge and understanding of facts, procedures and ideas in infection prevention and control relevant to their job role to complete well-defined tasks and address straight-forward problems. They will be able to interpret relevant information and ideas and will be aware of a range of information that is relevant to infection prevention and control.

Assessment

The knowledge and understanding of the candidates is assessed by a one-hour multiple-choice examination consisting of 30 questions. A candidate who is able to satisfy the learning outcomes will have attained a score of at least 25 marks in the examination. The assessment is graded as Pass or Fail. Strong performance in some areas of the qualification content may compensate for poorer performance in other areas.

The multiple choice examination is provided by RSPH.

Centre Guidance

Special Assessment Needs:

Centres that have candidates with special assessment needs should consult The Society's Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration policy; this is available in the centre area of the RSPH web site (www.rsph.org.uk).

National Occupational Standards:

This qualification is mapped to the following National Occupational Standards:

SKABT 30 Enhance facial features using micropigmentation techniques
SKABT 32 Provide advanced micropigmentation and skin rejuvenation techniques
SKABT 35 Provide cosmetic skin needling treatments
SKABT 1v2 Prepare and Maintain the Beauty Therapy Work Area
SKABT14v2 Pierce Ears

Further details of these National Occupational Standards can be obtained from RSPH Qualifications.

Recommended Qualifications and Experience of Tutors:

The Society would expect that tutors have relevant teaching/training experience and a qualification in the relevant subject area. Whilst experienced practitioners and officers will be able to compensate for a lack of teaching experience, teachers / trainers without first-hand experience of special procedures and the subject area (infection control) will be expected to obtain subject knowledge (for example by attaining this qualification) before delivering the qualification.

RSPH would expect all those delivering this qualification to have relevant recent experience providing knowledge and expertise within the sector and to be regularly updated in the area of training they are delivering. This can be by:

- Attending CPD activities
- Exhibitions – clearly connected to the content of this qualification
- E-Learning activities that can clearly show level and experience

RSPH would consider any of the following as a suitable level of understanding to deliver this qualification.

- Tutors/trainers with experience of practising Special Procedures and supervising infection control in a special procedure environment.
- Tutors/trainers with a background in Environmental Health and specialism in Special Procedures and infection control
- Tutors/trainers with a background in nursing or microbiology and infection control and a knowledge of Special Procedures.

Refresher Training

Authorised officers such as environmental health officers would expect special procedure practitioners to ensure that their knowledge is kept up to date. RSPH recommends refresher training within 3 years. This can be achieved by undertaking the same training and assessment or by retaking the assessment only.

Progression Opportunities:

On successful completion of this qualification, learners wishing to operate in Wales will be able to apply for a Special Procedures licence under Part 4 Public Health (Wales) Act 2017. Learners in England and Northern Ireland will be able to provide the enforcement authorities with evidence of their suitability to operate as a special procedures practitioner.

Guidance on Delivery:

This guidance is to support tutors in providing their learners with an optimal learning experience. It is not mandatory to follow this guidance but RSPH would expect that the delivery of the course is planned appropriately with sufficient content and differentiation to ensure that learners not only have an opportunity to achieve the learning outcomes but to gain a clear overview of their role in infection control. Indicative content has been specified but tutors are also encouraged to include additional information, where relevant, that would offer added value to their learners.

The information covered by this qualification may be new to some learners; however, other learners, in the same cohort may be generally familiar with the content. Therefore, the programme needs to be planned to meet the needs of both experienced and inexperienced learners.

The qualification is designed to cover the principles of infection control for practitioners working in tattoo and piercing studios, beauty salons offering invasive cosmetic treatments including acupuncture, electrolysis and semi-permanent make up and operators working at conventions and events, on a mobile basis or from home.

Understanding and controlling infectious and non-infectious hazards is the prevailing theme of this qualification and it is important that learners fully understand their own role in infection control and their responsibility under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 or related legislation in England and N. Ireland. The overarching requirement is that learners will apply their knowledge and understanding in their work place.

It is suggested that a variety of visual resources are used to illustrate the delivery of the course such as photos, video clips, examples of equipment and products, containers of cleaning materials, protective clothing and sample forms.

Learner participation is an important part of this learning experience and vital for maximum involvement. 'Discovery' learning should be used as a strategy, so that learners are drawing on their own experience and prior knowledge, wherever possible. The tutor should use individual and group learning activities that require the learner to make contributions so that they can pragmatically transfer their learning into their place of work. It is also beneficial to utilise the case studies drawn from real events to contextualise areas of learning.

It is recommended that a range of learner activities are used so that various learning styles are accommodated and to enable formative learning checks. Open questions, quizzes, work sheets, scenarios and hand outs are examples but it is also advised that the tutor includes some centre-devised multiple choice questions as a learning check so that the learner is prepared for this assessment method.

The tutor should discuss the broad scope of Special Procedures – such as conventions and events, operating from vehicles, mobile working and working from home as well as illicit operators and how the legal framework still applies.

Any enquiries about this qualification should be made to:

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