

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* 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.

'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.

Content:

1. **Understand infectious and non-infectious hazards associated with Special Procedures**
 - 1.1 *The role of microorganisms in infection;* Definition of microorganisms, growth requirements of microorganisms, characteristics of microorganisms commonly associated with Special Procedures, infections associated with Special Procedures including Hepatitis B and C, HIV, pseudomonas skin infections, non-tuberculous mycobacterium (NTM) infections and staphylococcal and streptococcal infections.
 - 1.2 *Common non-infectious hazards associated with Special Procedures;* Allergic reactions to products and jewellery, keloid formation, physical injuries, contra indications, illicit, prescription and over the counter drugs and alcohol. Special needs and the use of numbing creams.
 - 1.3 *How the reaction of the skin to injury can be a risk to the individual.* How microorganisms and hazardous materials can enter the circulatory system if the barrier function of the skin is compromised; risk to the individual such as sepsis and bacteraemia; effect of a compromised healing process on the individual; risk of transfer and spread of microorganisms if wounds are not properly looked after and treated.
 - 1.4 *Sources of infectious and non-infectious hazards;* Practitioners and customers as sources of, and vehicles for infection; risk of infection due to poor personal hygiene and practices, how good personal hygiene reduces the risk of infection. The environment, products and equipment as sources of and vehicles for non-infectious and infectious hazards.
 - 1.5 *The chain of infection in relation to Special Procedures;* Definition of the chain of infection and the importance of understanding each stage in relation to each special procedure, using the chain of infection concept to identify appropriate preventive and control measures.
2. **Understand how the risks from infectious and non-infectious hazards can be controlled and the legislative requirements associated with these**
 - 2.1 *The legal requirements for Special Procedures practitioners and business owners;*

For learners in Wales only:

The legislative requirement for Part 4 and 5 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017:

Part 4 - Definition of Special Procedures, the requirement for performing a special procedure including event and mobile working, general provisions of the special procedure licences, licensing criteria and mandatory licensing conditions, licence application and approval procedure, powers of inspectors, offences and penalties for non-compliance.

Part 5 - Definition of intimate piercing, powers of inspectors and entry, offences and penalties.

For Learners in England only:

Legal responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, RIDDOR, COSHH, Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations, Data Protection, Environmental Protection Act.

Provision of bye-laws for the cleanliness of premises, fittings, operatives and the cleansing and sterilization of instruments, materials and equipment as set out in Section VIII of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by the Local Government Act 2003; powers of Authorised Officers to enter premises under this legislation.

- 2.2 *How the skin acts as a defence against infection*; The structure and function of the skin that acts as a defence against infection; the basic principles of the circulatory and lymphatic system; stages of the wound healing process to include the role of the blood; how to recognise and respond to a compromised healing process; the defensive role of the epidermis and the importance of barrier function.
- 2.3 Preventing and controlling hazards by:
- 2.3.1 *Client consultation and aftercare*; Customer care, recording, storage and maintenance of records, data protection, client consent form and health questionnaire to include use of over the counter and prescribed medication, alcohol and drug use as well as smoking, contra indications, age verification, patch tests, use of GPs. Clear, simple aftercare advice.
- 2.3.2 *Hand hygiene*; The role of hands in transmission of infection. How to wash hands effectively, use of hand gels, five moments of hand hygiene, type and use of gloves.
- 2.3.3 *Management of special procedure environment*; work station, work flow, minimising the risk of cross infection, structural requirements of premises, fixtures and fittings, provision of adequate designated hand wash basins and suitable facilities for cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation. Light, ventilation and sanitary accommodation, provision of an adequate supply of hot and cold water and suitable drainage.
- 2.3.4 *Management of special procedure equipment and products*; Use of reputable suppliers for instruments and equipment, dyes and pigments, jewellery and other products. 'Fit for purpose', single use items, management of 'sterile' products, avoiding post contamination, stock rotation, record keeping, diluents and rinsing fluids.
- 2.3.5 *Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation*; definition of cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation, 2 stage cleaning, uses of appropriate cleaning and disinfection chemicals, including contact and dilution rates, scheduled cleaning, clean as you go, fit for purpose materials and equipment, cleaning procedures for premises and equipment.

- 2.3.6 *Personal Protective Equipment*; Purpose of PPE, correct use, role of practitioner and employers, single use disposable gloves, types, appropriate use, risk based. Aprons, work clothing eye/face protection.
- 2.3.7 *Management of Body Fluids*; Body fluid kits, their use and role in infection control, practical application, dealing with blood spills, urine, vomit and diarrhoea accidents and contaminated clothing.
- 2.3.8 *Collection and disposal of waste*; collection, storage and disposal of different types of waste, legal requirements, safe management.
- 2.3.9 *Occupational Exposure Management*; Personal cleanliness of practitioner, risk of exposure to practitioner, how to prevent exposures and what to do in the event of single occupational exposure incident including needle stick injuries. (See also hand hygiene, personal protective equipment and management of body fluid kits).

Assessment

The knowledge and understanding of the candidates will be assessed by a multiple-choice examination. The examination is provided by RSPH and consists of 30 questions. A candidate who is able to satisfy the learning outcomes of the qualification will achieve a score of at least 25 out of 30 in the examination. Strong performance in some areas of the qualification content may compensate for poorer performance in other areas. The duration of the examination is 1 hour.

Centre Guidance

Special 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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