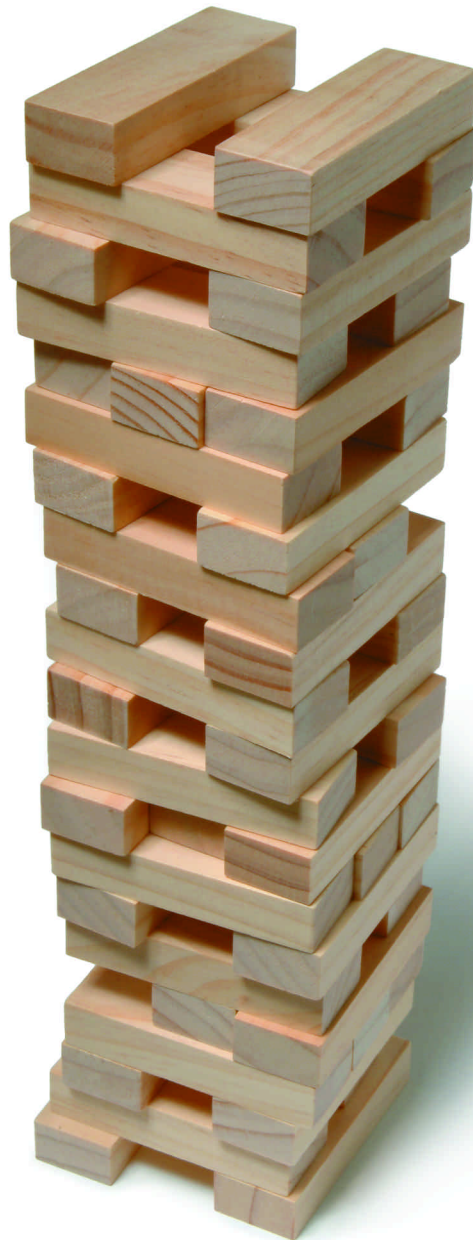


An employer's guide to the Level 3 NVQ in Custodial Healthcare

City & 
Guilds

www.city-and-guilds.co.uk

December 2003



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The last few years have witnessed massive changes in our expectations of public services particularly in the health sector. Government policy and modernisation initiatives within the NHS have extended to a reorganisation of prison health care to deliver improved health care provision for prisoners in England and Wales.

A formal partnership between the Prison Service and the NHS driven by the Home Office, Department of Health and by the Welsh Assembly means that best practice in nursing care and workforce development can be shared. The NVQ in Custodial Healthcare has been specifically designed to support these changes and contribute to a closer integration of the services.

Intended for Healthcare Officers it combines the key areas of physical care and mental health care with the maintenance of security and order. It covers the current and future work roles of healthcare staff delivering nursing care not only in prisons but also in the juvenile secure estate, detention centres and immigration centres.

By providing formal recognition of skills and competence it can enable workers to transfer between health care services and may also provide progression to professional nursing qualifications as well as enabling nursing staff to gain skills and competence in work in secure settings.

What does this qualification provide?

Based on the most current occupational standards set by the National Training Organisation for Custodial Care (CCNTO), the award describes best practice for staff delivering nursing care to individuals held in custody in public and private sector agencies within the UK.

The Level 3 NVQ in Custodial Healthcare, is designed specifically for healthcare officers and is made up of ten core units. There are also some additional units which can be used as the basis of continuing professional development.

The core units which will be assessed are:

- Maintain restrictions on individuals' liberty whilst promoting and protecting their rights
- Maintain security and order in the custodial environment
- Contribute to the prevention and management of abusive and aggressive behaviour
- Contribute to the protection of individuals from abuse
- Screen individuals' mental and physical well-being on reception into a custodial setting
- Administer and monitor medication for individuals consistent with protocols, standards and legislation
- Prepare and undertake agreed clinical activities with individuals
- Support individuals in undertaking healthcare
- Prepare and provide agreed individual development activities for individuals
- Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security in the workplace

The additional seven units which are not required to achieve the NVQ cover a range of functions with a broader range of competence than the mandatory units and will provide a basis for further development or progression.

Some of these units are:

- Develop and sustain effective working relationships with staff in other agencies
- Promote the health of individuals who are subject to the physical management of violent behaviour
- Develop one's own knowledge and practice

How is the qualification delivered?

This NVQ is a work based award which means candidates are assessed in the workplace performing real work activities. If a candidate requires any additional training prior to assessment this can be based on or off-site or through a combination of the two.

The essential requirement is that the candidate is linked to a City & Guilds centre approved to offer the award. As an employer you will be able to discuss fully with the centre the most suitable way of delivering the award for you and your managers. We can provide you with a list of approved assessment centres offering this award in your local area.

Alternatively, you can become an approved City & Guilds assessment centre in your own right and deliver the programme without outside help.

Do the qualifications form part of a recognised framework?

The award has some units in common with the NVQs in Community Justice, Youth Justice, Care and Custodial Care. Candidates who gain these units within the Custodial Healthcare NVQ gain credits towards other NVQs in which the units appear and vice versa. This means that they can more easily progress or develop their career.

The NVQ is also at level 3 on the national qualifications framework for England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Separate arrangements apply for Scotland, your nearest City & Guilds office will be able to advise further.

Are there any learning materials available?

An award guidance and record of assessment book is available. The publication reference number is TS-03-7496.

The CCNTO is developing a bank of standard questions and model responses for the knowledge requirements of the NVQ.

For further information about the impact and importance of this award you can refer to

www.doh.gov.uk/prisonhealth and www.ccnto.com

We have also recently launched www.smartscreen.co.uk a learning portal dedicated to supporting centres and candidates. It provides latest industry news, discussion forums, career advice, a CV builder, and a searchable job database.

Key points

- Specifically designed for a range of services from prisons to electronic monitoring
- Provides a structure for career entry, promotion and work in related sectors
- It gives you the confidence and required skills and knowledge to work safely in this challenging setting
- The assessment can all take place in your own work place and is all about real work activities with people

Why City & Guilds?

City & Guilds is the UK's foremost provider of vocational awards in the health and social care sector. We have dedicated development, quality assurance and quality improvement teams, specifically for this sector. Furthermore, they are supported by a network of specialist advisers in each of our regional and national offices of the UK. Advisers work directly with employers and assessment centres to ensure that our awards are appropriate to your needs and delivered within a quality assured framework.

Are there any other qualifications that may be of interest to me?

We offer a complete range of qualifications for the health and social care sector including:

Levels 2-4 NVQs and SVQs in Care

Levels 2 and 3 NVQs in Custodial Care

Levels 3 and 4 NVQs in Community Justice

Levels 3 and 4 NVQs in Youth Justice at Levels

In order to help your workforce progress to and between N/SVQ levels we also provide a range of vocationally related qualifications (VRQs) including the following:

Levels 2 and 3 Certificate in Working with People who have Learning Disabilities

Level 3 Certificate in Community Mental Health Care

Level 2 Certificate in Mental Health Work

What is my next step?

If you are already an approved City & Guilds centre you only need to obtain the relevant scheme documentation and then complete a Scheme Approval Form. This should then be sent to your nearest City & Guilds office.

If your organisation is not a City & Guilds centre you should be able to find an approved centre near you by contacting our Customer Relations team.

Alternatively, if you would like to become an approved centre, your local City & Guilds regional or national office will be able to help you. Contact details can be obtained from our website or from our Customer Relations team.

How can I find out more?

You can find out more by logging on our website to find the location of your nearest City & Guilds office or by contacting our Customer Relations team. Details on other products and services offered by City & Guilds can also be found here.

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If you're asked for a scheme number, quote 7496.

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December 2003