

# Introducing the new NVQs in Health and Social Care in 2005

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## Frequently Asked Questions

14th October 2004

The information supplied below provides an overview of the most frequently asked questions regarding the current arrangements for introducing these new NVQs in Health and Social Care only. More detailed information will be provided direct to centres over the next 2 months.

PLEASE NOTE that further guidance will be available regarding the other suite of new NVQs in Healthcare, once the structures have been confirmed.

## 1 Preliminary Information

### 1.1 Which qualifications are being replaced?

The qualifications listed below are expiring on 31 January 2005.

	Last Registration	Last Certification
NVQ L3 DIAGNOSTIC & THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT Q1050163	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2005	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2008
NVQ L2 CARE Q 1050158	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2005	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2007
NVQ L3 CARE Q1050159	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2005	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2008
NVQ L4 CARE Q1050160	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2005	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2008
NVQ L3 CARING FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE Q1050162	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2005	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2008
NVQ L3 PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE Q1050165	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2005	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2008

The new NVQ titles are as follows:

**NVQ L2 Health and Social Care**

**NVQ L3 Health and Social Care**  
*(Children and Young People)*

**NVQ L3 Health and Social Care**  
*(Adults)*

**NVQ L4 Health and Social Care**  
*(Children and Young People)*

**NVQ L4 Health and Social Care**  
*(Adults)*

Further information regarding approval arrangements will be sent direct to centres and details will also be available on the Edexcel Health and Social Care microsite.

## 1.2 *How will these new qualifications access funding?*

These new Edexcel NVQ qualifications will be listed on the current DfES Funding Lists (Section 96 and 97 as appropriate) and subsequent DfES update circulars.

The replaced Edexcel NVQ titles listed in question 1.1 above, which expire on 31 January 2005, will no longer attract public funding as of that date. **Please note** that candidates already registered with Edexcel on these NVQ titles **will be funded** to complete their programme.

It is appreciated that centres in Wales and Northern Ireland operate under different funding arrangements; please contact your Edexcel Regional Office if you have particular queries (see below).

### **For Centres in Wales:**

Cardiff Regional Office  
Unit C  
Fairway House  
Links Business Park  
St Mellons  
Cardiff  
CF3 OLT  
Tel: 0292 079 4865  
Email: dot.powell@edexcel.org.uk

### **For Centres in Northern Ireland:**

Bristol Regional Office  
Cribbs Business Centre  
Hollywood Lane  
Cribbs Causeway  
Bristol  
BS10 7TW  
Tel: 0117 950 1908  
Email: sue.parr@edexcel.org.uk

## 1.3 *Where can we obtain copies of the DfES funding listings?*

On the DfES website - [www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

# 2 Arrangements for registering candidates

## 2.1 *When can we register candidates on the revised Edexcel NVQ programmes?*

You may register candidates as soon as you have received your approval letter from Edexcel confirming that you are approved to offer the relevant qualifications.

## 2.2 *Is it best to stop registering for the current awards at the end of 2004 and wait until the new standards come in before registering any more?*

This is a decision for you as a centre to make. Any candidates following the current specifications must be registered by 31st January 2005. Candidates can only be registered for the new qualifications after the date you receive approval. You need to carefully plan for the introduction of the new NVQs and take into account the resources required to meet the demands that are likely to be made by your candidates. You should take care not to take any actions that may disadvantage your candidates.

## 2.3 *Do I have to register for the Adult pathway or the Children and Young People pathway at the beginning, or can we decide afterwards?*

The decision has to be made before, or at the time of, registration. The nature of the NVQ candidate's job role will determine the sources of evidence they are likely to use and therefore the most suitable pathway and option units to follow. If candidates change pathway after registration, they may be transferred between pathways, using a Form SA2, (providing their centre is approved to also offer the alternative pathway).

## 2.4 *How will I know which units can't be combined?*

The centre guidance will show the qualification structures and required combinations for NVQ achievement and eligibility for certification.

The units themselves also indicate which other unit(s) they cannot be combined with, where appropriate.

## *2.5 Why are the Additional Units there?*

To provide opportunities for professional development, and to meet employer needs for specific job roles.

## *2.6 Can I use Additional Units instead of Optional Units?*

No. However, Additional Units will be included within the registration for the NVQ and can be reported, and unit certificates claimed, while the registration is live.

## *2.7 What is happening with Promoting Independence and Diagnostic & Therapeutic Support?*

They will not continue as NVQs, but there will be optional unit choices to meet the needs of learners who choose this route.

## *2.8 Will there be mapping between the old and new qualifications?*

No. Any transfer of evidence will have to be on an individual APL route. For guidance on APL please see the Edexcel website <http://hsc.edexcel.org.uk>, "Policy on the Accreditation of Prior Learning."

## *2.9 Will we have to pay an additional registration fee for the Additional Units?*

The Additional Units will be available to candidates and their centres throughout their registration period. This means that whilst the registration is live, candidates can add as many Additional Units to their registration as they wish, over and above the minimum unit requirements to achieve the NVQ, at no extra charge. Unit certification can be claimed at any time during the registration period at no extra charge. However, once the claim for NVQ certification has been made, the registration is then closed. After that time, candidates will need to register again for any units they require. The current fee for unit registration is £15.50 per unit.

## *2.10 Will candidates already registered for the existing NVQs be able to transfer their registration?*

Candidates registered for the existing NVQs will be able to transfer their registration to the new NVQ at the same level for no additional charge. However, it should be noted that these candidates will not be able to use any units they have achieved within the existing NVQ as part of the structure of the new NVQ. They may well be able to use the evidence they have acquired, through the usual APL route, and should discuss this with their assessor.

# **3 Delivering and assessing the new NVQs**

## *3.1 What is the difference between witness testimony and expert witness testimony?*

It is best to avoid the term 'expert witness testimony' and use instead 'expert witness evidence', which may or may not be testimony.

Within the new Health and Social Care NVQs, the use of Expert Witnesses is encouraged as a contribution to the assessment of evidence of the candidate's competence, where there are no occupationally competent assessors for occupationally specific units i.e. within the option units only.

Expert witnesses are identified and trained by the centre; witnesses are other people who may have been present at a particular incident, or able to provide evidence of consistency of practice, but not on the centre register as experts.

## *3.2 What qualifications will the expert witness need to have?*

None. They must be able to prove their competence in the units with which they are involved. See also the following question.

## *3.3 Will expert witnesses have to hold L20?*

They should be encouraged to undertake unit L20 from the A&V awards.

### 3.4 *Why can't expert witnesses provide evidence for the core units?*

This was a decision made by the Sector Skills Councils and forms part of the Assessment Strategy. Assessors are expected to be occupationally competent and to take the lead role in the assessment of the core units of the qualification. The use of Expert Witnesses is possible where there are no occupationally competent assessors for **occupationally specific units**.

### 3.5 *Will people with no qualification other than the D units still be able to assess?*

Yes, until there is a change in the guidance or in legislation. Centres will be notified of any such change.

### 3.6 *Can candidates get their NVQ when they look after only a single individual?*

Candidates can use evidence solely from only one service user, where the candidate works with no other service user. However, these circumstances must be discussed and agreed with the Edexcel External Verifier prior to candidate registration.

### 3.7 *Why can't our candidates write their own observations?*

Candidates are not permitted to write their own observations, as this would be only a **reflective account**.

Assessors need to write the assessment of the observed performance. Assessors themselves need to be competent in the units they are assessing, qualified in assessment, and have sufficient time to undertake their role. Also see NVQ Code of Practice.

They need to make the observation, draw judgements from the performance, and elicit any knowledge evidence from the practice they have observed.

### 3.8 *I've heard that we can't use professional discussion any more, as it isn't mentioned in the assessment strategy?*

The assessment methods mentioned in the assessment guidance and strategy are not a definitive and exhaustive list. They are suggestions of a range of appropriate methods, which can be used. Other methods can also be used, although it is a good idea to discuss these with the IV and EV if in any doubt. There is further guidance on the use of professional discussion within the Centre Guidance.

### 3.9 *Will we need independent assessment in the new standards?*

No. The external assessment requirement will be dealt with by the awarding bodies and standard setting bodies separately from centre requirements.

## 4 Other Questions

### 4.1 *When will the candidates on the current awards, have to complete their qualification?*

Registered candidates will need to complete their qualification by whichever comes first, the certification end date for the qualification (January 2007 for level 2 and January 2008 for levels 3 and 4), or the 5 year Edexcel individual registration period.

### 4.2 *Does the review include the Registered Manager (Adults) NVQ?*

No. This qualification has until 2007 before it is due for review.

### 4.3 *How do we cope with DANOS units when we have no assessors or IVs in place?*

It is suggested that help can be sought from assessors with care experience to support new assessors with drugs and alcohol related experience working towards their A and V unit achievement.