

# National Vocational Qualifications in Health and Social Care at levels 2, 3 and 4

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## NVQs

### Background

These qualifications are based on the National Occupational Standards (NOS) developed by the joint project shared between the sector bodies TOPSS UK and Skills for Health. They include the social care units and the health units relevant to both the social care and health sectors.

The qualifications reflect the changing face of both sectors by providing greater flexibility to enable staff to meet the needs of service users more effectively as well as offering an aid to career progression. Embedded within the new units are the value base, the Codes of Practice for the social sector, plus modern and innovative care practice.

#### Who should take these NVQs?

Depending on level, these NVQs are appropriate for those working in a variety of job roles either within health or social care. 50% of those working in residential care are required to be qualified at NVQ level 2 by 2005 in order to satisfy National Minimum Standards. Those at levels 2 and 3 may either be working directly in care or supervising and managing others. Those at level 4 will hold more senior staff roles. At all levels they may be employed in the public, private or voluntary sector across the whole spectrum of residential, hospital, day care, foster care or domiciliary settings.

#### Edexcel NVQ Level 2 Health and Social Care

At this level, candidates who are employed in the **health sector**, are required to take two of the core units, two optional units and a further two units which can be either core or optional units. The choice of units depends on the nature of the candidate's job role.

Candidates who are employed in the **social care sector** MUST complete all four core units and two optional units.

#### Edexcel NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care (Children and Young People)

#### Edexcel NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care (Adults)

There are two endorsed titles at level 3. All candidates select the three core units and then select one further unit depending on whether they work in an adults' or children and young people's setting. Candidates then have a free choice of four option units. These can be drawn from either the children and young people or adults groups and can include selection(s) from a generic option group.

#### Edexcel NVQ Level 4 Health and Social Care (Children and Young People)

#### Edexcel NVQ Level 4 Health and Social Care (Adults)

There are two endorsed titles at level 4. Candidates select three core units and then one unit depending on whether they are working with adults or children and young people. Candidates then have a free choice of four option units. These can be drawn from either the children and young people or adults groups and can include selection(s) from a generic option group.

Also available are additional units at all levels, which, whilst they do not form part of the qualification structure, offer opportunities for continuing professional development.

These qualifications have replaced NVQ levels 2, 3 and 4 in Care.

Full details of the NOS can be found on the TOPSS website [www.topss.org.uk](http://www.topss.org.uk)

Overleaf is an overview of the structure and core unit titles.

## Edexcel NVQ Level 2 Health and Social Care

- Social care candidates must complete all four core units plus two option units
- Health candidates complete two core units, two option units and two drawn from either core or option groups

Core Units
HSC 21 Communicate with and complete records for individuals
HSC 22 Support the health and safety of yourself and individuals
HSC 23 Develop your knowledge and practice
HSC 24 Ensure your own actions support the care, protection and well-being of individuals
In addition, there is a range of 28 optional units.

## Edexcel NVQ Level 3 Health and Social Care (Children and Young people) Health and Social Care (Adults)

Core Units Candidates must complete all three	
HSC 31 Promote effective communication for and about individuals	
HSC 32 Promote, monitor and maintain health, safety and security in the working environment	
HSC 33 Reflect on and develop your practice	
Two qualification routes. Candidates select one route	
Children and Young People	Adults
HSC 34 Promote the well being and protection of children and young people	HSC 35 Promote choice, well-being and the protection of all individuals
In addition, candidates select four units from a total choice of 105. These can be drawn from either the children and young people or adults groups and can include selection(s) from a generic option group.	

## Edexcel NVQ Level 4 Health and Social Care (Children and Young people) Health and Social Care (Adults)

Core Units Candidates must complete all three	
HSC 41 Use and develop methods and systems to communicate, record and report	
HSC 42 Contribute to the development and maintenance of healthy and safe practices in the working environment	
HSC 43 Take responsibility for the continuing professional development of self and others	
Two qualification routes. Candidates select one route	
Children and Young People	Adults
HSC 44 Develop practice which promotes the well being and protection of children and young people	HSC45 Develop practice which promotes choice, well-being and protection of all individuals
In addition, candidates select four units from a total choice of 46. These can be drawn from either the children and young people or adults groups and can include selection(s) from a generic option group.	

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## What to do next

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