

Unit 101: Support Individuals to Manage Dysphagia

Level:	4
Unit type:	Optional
Credit value:	5
Guided learning hours:	36

Unit Aim

This unit is aimed at those who support individuals who participate in therapy programmes to restore or maintain maximum independence in the management of dysphagia.

Assessment requirements

This unit must be assessed in line with *Skills for Health Assessment Principles for Qualifications that Assess Occupational Competence* document. Detailed information can be found in *Annexe A* of the qualification specification.

Evidence for skills within learning outcomes 4 and 5 must come from real work activities.

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1 Understand how to support individuals to manage dysphagia in line with current legislation, national guidelines, policies, protocols and good practice guidelines	1.1 Explain current legislation, national guidelines, policies, protocols and good practice guidelines related to supporting individuals with dysphagia
	1.2 Explain why individuals with dysphagia should be encouraged to promote their own health and well-being
	1.3 Identify sources of information relating to an individuals' requirements for managing their dysphasia
	1.4 Explain types of activities that compensate, support development or maintenance of swallowing ability

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
2 Understand how dysphagia affects individuals	2.1 Describe the main clinical causes of dysphagia
	2.2 Explain how to recognise the main types of dysphagia
	2.3 Identify major risks and secondary difficulties associated with dysphagia
	2.4 Describe the anatomy and physiology relevant to maintaining a safe swallow
	2.5 Explain how an individual's ability to swallow is affected by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sensory impairment • physical impairment • neurological impairment • cognitive impairment • previous experiences of oral feeding • age
3 Know the importance of nutritional intake and environment for individuals with dysphagia	3.1 Describe the impact of dysphagia on oral intake and nutrition for an individual
	3.2 Describe safe practices with regard to preparing oral intake
	3.3 Describe food or drink textures in accordance with national guidelines and how this relates to individuals with dysphagia
	3.4 Explain how to implement feeding techniques within scope of own role
	3.5 Identify reasons for modifying the consistency and appearance of oral intake for an individual with dysphagia
	3.6 Explain the importance of providing a suitable environment for affected individuals
4 Be able to support individuals in managing dysphagia by developing skills through participating in therapy programmes	4.1 Confirm the individual's identity and gain valid consent prior to carrying out the therapy programme
	4.2 Explain how consent would be gained from individuals who does not have the capacity to consent

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
	4.3 Explain the skill development activities to the individual or carer
	4.4 Support the individual's active participation with skill development activities as specified in the individual's care programme
	4.5 Obtain advice from the care team if the level of support required by the individual is beyond own scope of practice
	4.6 Provide oral intake in the consistency and appearance outlined in the individual's care programme
	4.7 Provide the individual with sufficient time to practice newly developed skills
	4.8 Monitor and record food and drink intake to ensure nutritional requirements are met
	4.9 Provide the individual or carer with information and advice in regard to the management of their dysphagia , as instructed by the specialist
	4.10 Carry out therapeutic feeding activities with dysphagic individuals under direction
	4.11 Work with others in the development of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • optimal feeding strategies • modelling and reinforcing strategies recommended by a speech and language therapist
	5 Be able to provide information to colleagues regarding individuals' treatment
5.2 Provide feedback to the individual's therapist and care team to aid future care planning	

Additional information about the unit

Exemplification of terms used in assessment criteria:

Dysphagia includes eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

Individuals refers to someone requiring care or support; it will usually mean the person or people supported by the learner.

Safe practices could include infection control, body positioning of the individual.

Valid consent (must be in line with agreed UK country definition) may include:

- The individual must have the mental capacity to make the decision
- The individual must have sufficient non-bias information to make an informed choice
- The individual must not be pressured into making a decision and must give consent freely.

Active participation is a way of working that recognises an individual's right to participate in the activities and relationships of everyday life as independently as possible; the individual is regarded as an active partner in their own care or support, rather than a passive recipient.

Others may include:

- Team members
- Other colleagues
- Families, carers and advocates.