

Unit 46: Support Individuals During the Last Days of Life

Level:	4
Unit type:	Optional
Credit value:	5
Guided learning hours:	40

Unit Aim

The purpose of this unit is to provide the learner with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to support individuals during the last days of life.

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 3-6 must come from real work activities.

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1 Understand the impact of the last days of life on the individual and others	1.1 Describe psychological effects of the dying phase on the individual and others
	1.2 Describe the impact of the last days of life on the relationships between individuals and others
2 Understand how to respond to common symptoms in the last days of life	2.1 Describe the common signs of approaching death
	2.2 Explain how to minimise the distress of symptoms related to the last days of life
	2.3 Describe appropriate comfort measures in the final hours of life
	2.4 Explain the circumstances when life-prolonging treatment can be stopped or withheld
	2.5 Identify the signs that death has occurred

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
3 Be able to support individuals and others during the last days of life	3.1 Demonstrate a range of ways to enhance an individual's well-being during the last days of life
	3.2 Describe ways to support others during an individual's last days of life
	3.3 Work in partnership with others to support the individual's well-being
	3.4 Describe how to use a range of resources for care in the last days of life according to agreed ways of working
	3.5 Support others to understand the process following death according to agreed ways of working
4 Be able to respond to changing needs of an individual during the last days of life	4.1 Explain the importance of following the individual's advance care plan in the last days of life
	4.2 Record the changing needs of the individual during the last days of life according to agreed ways of working
	4.3 Support the individual when their condition changes according to agreed ways of working
	4.4 Explain the importance of communicating with others during the individual's last days of life
5 Be able to work according to national guidelines, local policies and procedures, taking into account preferences and wishes after the death of the individual	5.1 Implement actions immediately after a death that respect the individual's and others' preferences and wishes according to agreed ways of working
	5.2 Provide care for the individual after death according to national guidelines, local policies and procedures
	5.3 Explain the importance of following the advance care plan to implement the individual's preferences and wishes for their after-death care

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
	5.4 Follow agreed ways of working relating to prevention and control of infection when caring for and transferring a deceased person
	5.5 Explain ways to support others immediately following the death of the individual
6 Be able to manage own feelings in relation to an individual's dying or death	6.1 Identify ways to manage own feelings in relation to an individual's death
	6.2 Use sources of support to manage own feelings in relation to an individual's death

Additional information about the unit

Exemplification of terms used in assessment criteria:

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

Others may include:

- Team members
- Line Manager
- Other colleagues
- Those who use or commission their own health or social care services
- Families, carers and advocates
- Outside services and organisations
- Those with power of attorney
- Other professionals
- Others who are important to the individual's wellbeing.

Range of ways may include:

- Managing symptoms: pharmacological and non-pharmacological
- Physical, psychosocial and spiritual care.

Agreed ways of working will include policies and procedures where these exist; they may be less formally documented with micro-employers.

Preferences may be based on:

- Beliefs
- Values
- Culture
- Aspirations
- Wishes.

Sources of support may include:

- Formal support
- Informal support
- Supervision
- Within the organisation
- Beyond the organisation.