

## Unit 62: Conduct External Ear Examinations

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Level:	3
Unit type:	Optional
Credit value:	4
Guided learning hours:	32

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### Unit Aim

This unit is aimed at those who conduct examinations of the external ear in a variety of care settings. It provides learners with the opportunity to develop knowledge, understanding and skills required to prepare for and undertake examinations in a safe manner.

### 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 4-6 must come from real work activities.

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
1 Understand how to conduct external ear examinations in line with current legislation, national guidelines, policies, protocols and good practice guidelines	1.1 Summarise how current legislation, national guidelines, policies, protocols and good practice affect practice related to conducting ear examinations
	1.2 Describe how to prepare an environment for ear examinations in line with local policy and protocol
	1.3 Describe how to prepare <b>individuals</b> for external ear examinations in line with requirements
	1.4 Explain the importance of positioning the <b>individual</b> and self correctly prior to undertaking the ear examination

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
	1.5 Describe how to maintain the privacy, safety, dignity and comfort of <b>individuals</b> throughout the examination 1.6 Explain how to use an otoscope to examine the external ear
2 Know the anatomy of the ear as related to conducting ear examinations	2.1 Identify the main components of the external ear 2.2 Identify the main components of the middle and inner ear
3 Understand reasons for conducting an examination of the external ear	3.1 Describe potential effects of abnormalities of the external ear 3.2 Describe the signs and symptoms which may indicate an abnormality of the external ear 3.3 Explain why it is important to examine the external ear only
4 Be able to prepare to conduct external ear examinations	4.1 Maintain a safe and healthy working environment, using infection prevention and control techniques including hand washing, sanitisation, disinfection and personal protective equipment (PPE) 4.2 Prepare equipment for the ear examination 4.3 Confirm the <b>individual's</b> identity and gain <b>valid consent</b> prior to beginning the examination 4.4 Position the <b>individual</b> and self so that the examination can be conducted safely and comfortably
5 Be able to conduct external ear examinations	5.1 Explain the procedure to the <b>individual</b> /carer in a way that is sensitive to their personal beliefs and preferences 5.2 Conduct an examination of the external ear

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
	5.3 Recognise and respond to the signs and symptoms that the <b>individual</b> is in pain, or discomfort during the examination and respond accordingly
	5.4 Explain findings to the <b>individual</b> /carer
6 Be able to record and report results from external ear examinations	6.1 Record findings using the appropriate paperwork
	6.2 Report any further actions to the appropriate member of staff in line with local policy and protocol

## 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.

**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.