



Australian Government

HLTAIN003 Assist with nursing care

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Modification History

Release	Comments
1	This unit of competency was first released in HLT Health Release 11.0.

Application

This unit describes the skills and knowledge required to provide healthcare assistance to healthcare recipients in accordance with an established individualised care plan, under the delegation and supervision of a registered nurse or midwife. It includes supporting personal care needs, collecting and reporting clinical data, assisting with low-risk delegated procedures, and working effectively as part of a care team.

This unit applies to health services assistants working in acute, sub-acute, aged care, or other care environments. Work is performed according to organisational procedures, within clearly defined role boundaries, and under the delegation and supervision of a registered nurse or midwife.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with current Commonwealth and State/Territory legislation, Australian/New Zealand standards and industry codes of practice.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite unit(s)

No pre-requisite units

Competency field(s)

Assistant in Nursing

Unit sector(s)

Health

Elements and Performance Criteria

Element	Performance criteria
<i>Elements define the essential outcomes</i>	<i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i>

<p>1. Provide delegated care to healthcare recipient in a health or community care setting</p>	<p>1.1 Implement delegated care tasks to support healthcare recipient needs according to individualised care plan</p> <p>1.2 Collect clinical data using equipment according to organisational procedures</p> <p>1.3 Report all clinical data according to organisational procedures</p> <p>1.4 Confirm healthcare recipient willingness to proceed with delegated care activities according to organisational procedures</p> <p>1.5 Identify healthcare recipient preferences to support individualised care plan</p> <p>1.6 Report healthcare recipient information to registered nurse or midwife to support individualised care plan, according to organisational procedures</p> <p>1.7 Explain the purpose of data collection to healthcare recipient and confirm understanding, according to organisational procedures</p> <p>1.8 Communicate with healthcare recipient according to individual needs</p> <p>1.9 Report changes in healthcare recipient condition to a registered nurse or midwife</p>
<p>2. Support healthcare recipient to meet personal care needs in a health or community care setting</p>	<p>2.1 Provide support and care to meet daily living activities, according to individualised care plan, organisational procedures, and under delegation of a registered nurse or midwife</p> <p>2.2 Use equipment and aids according to organisational procedures when providing assistance and support</p> <p>2.3 Report concerns in providing support and assistance to healthcare recipient to registered nurse or midwife</p> <p>2.4 Provide information to healthcare recipient to support their personal care needs according to individual preferences and communication needs</p> <p>2.5 Maintain confidentiality, privacy, dignity and cultural safety of healthcare recipient according to organisational procedures</p>
<p>3. Work with care team, healthcare recipient, families and carers</p>	<p>3.1 Work with care team according to defined roles and responsibilities</p>

	<p>3.2 Work with healthcare recipient, families and carers according to individual needs</p> <p>3.3 Report concerns, issues or uncertainty to registered nurse or midwife</p> <p>3.4 Report and record clinical data to care team member, according to organisational procedures</p>
4. Work effectively under supervision and delegation of registered nurse or midwife	<p>4.1 Follow sequence and time frame according to delegated work tasks</p> <p>4.2 Seek clarification to complete delegated work tasks</p> <p>4.3 Report issues experienced carrying out delegated work tasks to a registered nurse or midwife</p>

Foundation skills

The foundation skills essential to performance of this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

Skill	Description
Reading skills to:	Interpret care-related information and medical terminology to support task completion in familiar healthcare context.
Writing skills to:	Document healthcare recipient observation using appropriate medical terminology and organisational convention to support information sharing.
Numeracy skills to:	Interpret numerical information from routine clinical charts, scales and organisational records to support care-related tasks.
Digital skills to:	Use organisational equipment to support care-related processes in a familiar context.

Digital literacy outcomes are included in the Foundation Skills Companion Volume.

Range of conditions

N/A

Assessment Requirements for HLTAIN003 Assist with nursing care

Performance Evidence

The candidate must show evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage delegated tasks and contingencies within the scope of their job role.

There must be evidence that the candidate has:

- provided healthcare assistance to at least 2 healthcare recipients on at least 3 occasions (minimum of one occasion in a simulated environment and 2 occasions in the workplace), across a range of situations, including different times, individual conditions, and care contexts. For each, the candidate must demonstrate the following according to individualised care plan:
 - demonstrated workplace practice and communication, including:
 - communicated with the healthcare recipients and care team
 - reported and recorded healthcare recipient information
 - supported with daily living activities by providing healthcare recipients with personal hygiene and grooming, relevant to their needs, including:
 - assisted with showering, sponge bathing, or bed bathing
 - dressed and undressed individuals
 - provided oral hygiene
 - provided hair care
 - shaved individuals
 - applied skin care and moisturiser
 - supported with daily living activities by providing healthcare recipients with toileting and continence care, relevant to their needs, including:
 - assisted with toileting, including continence aid use and replacement
 - emptied urinary catheter bags and documented and reported output
 - cleaned external tubing
 - reported changes in continence abnormalities or needs
 - reported status of bowel movements and documented issues
 - supported with daily living activities by providing healthcare recipients with nutrition and hydration, including:
 - assisted with eating and drinking
 - recorded fluid and food intake

- observed and reported clinical data according to organisational procedures of the following at least once, including:
 - respiratory rate
 - pulse rate
 - temperature
 - blood pressure using automatic machine or manual skill
 - oxygen saturation
 - blood glucose level
 - pain score
 - intake and output for fluid balance or food chart
 - weight and height measurements
 - urinalysis
- monitored and reported changes in healthcare recipient's condition at least once per occasion, including:
 - skin integrity
 - behaviour or mood observed or reported
 - pain expression
 - level of alertness
- assisted with low-risk procedures in a simulated or workplace environment on at least 3 occasions, including:
 - re-applied anti-thrombosis stockings
 - cleaned around indwelling catheter entry point
 - performed simple wound care
 - assisted with oxygen delivery devices breathing support devices

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and respond to contingencies within the context of the job role. This includes knowledge of:

- role and scope of practice, including:
 - responsibilities and limitations of the health services assistant job role
 - meaning and importance of delegation by a registered nurse and midwife
 - when and how to seek clarification or escalate concerns
 - work role boundaries in different care settings

- acute care
- sub-acute care
- home care
- organisational policies, procedures and protocols, including:
 - infection prevention and control
 - manual handling and Work Health and Safety (WHS) requirements
 - documentation, incident reporting, and escalation processes
 - quality and safety standards and accreditation
- communication protocols, including:
 - communication styles
 - reporting structures
- factors that influence effective communication with healthcare recipients, including:
 - language and literacy
 - cultural background and preferences
 - cognitive ability and health conditions
 - use of interpreters or communication aids
- safety risks and procedures in home-based or isolated care environments
- safe and inclusive wellbeing needs, including:
 - gender-specific considerations
 - cultural safety consideration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse
 - safe and inclusive practise for diverse populations, including:
 - disability
 - gender
 - individuals living with mental illness
- legal and ethical considerations, including:
 - mandatory reporting
 - duty of care
 - privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
 - codes of conduct and professional behaviour
 - human rights and dignity
 - the concept of dignity of risk and self-determination
 - ethical behaviour and boundaries during personal care

- after-death care responsibilities
- anatomy, physiology and clinical observations, including:
 - basic anatomy and physiology relevant to collecting and interpreting vital signs
 - normal clinical ranges and variations in:
 - temperature
 - pulse
 - respiratory rate
 - blood pressure
 - oxygen saturation
 - blood glucose
 - pain score
 - skin condition
 - level of alertness
 - bowel opening
 - urine output
 - urinalysis
 - signs of healthcare recipient deterioration and when to escalate concerns
 - basic understanding of falls prevention and implications for skin, bone, and mobility
- personal care and daily living activities, including:
 - principles of providing respectful and individualised personal care
 - psychological, emotional, and cultural factors influencing personal care
 - use and care of equipment and aids to support daily living, including:
 - continence aids
 - mobility aids
 - hygiene tools
 - personal care practices, including:
 - showering, bathing, dressing
 - oral hygiene
 - grooming and shaving
 - toileting, continence support, and skin hygiene
 - risks associated with poor hygiene and continence care
- skin integrity and pressure area care, including:

- causes and implications of skin breakdown
- procedures to maintain skin integrity, including repositioning, moisturising, skin checks
- observing, documenting, and reporting changes in skin condition
- prevention and management of pressure injuries within scope
- risks associated with lack of repositioning
- continence support, including:
 - purpose and types of continence programs
 - use, care and limitations of continence aids
 - components of catheter systems
 - indicators of infection or deterioration related to continence
- use of equipment and assistive aids, including:
 - common equipment used to support personal care
 - safe handling and storage of prescribed personal equipment
 - limitations of job role in adjusting or administering prescribed aids
 - cost and damage risk related to assistive devices
- delegated procedures and support tasks, including:
 - scope of assistance for delegated tasks, including but not limited to:
 - recording observations
 - basic catheter care
 - simple wound care cleaning and dressing
 - re-application of anti-thrombosis stockings
 - understanding aseptic principles when supporting wound or catheter care
 - recognising signs of deterioration, including change in consciousness and escalating accordingly

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated under the delegation and supervision of a registered nurse or midwife, and according to individualised care plans.

The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- at least 1 occasion must be demonstrated in a simulated environment prior to assessment in the workplace
- at least 2 occasions must be demonstrated in the workplace

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
 - individualised care plan or clinical pathway
 - personal care equipment and aids identified in the care plan
 - equipment relevant to collecting clinical data and low-risk procedures
 - organisational policies and procedures
 - healthcare recipient records and documentation relevant to support tasks

Assessors must satisfy the current Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs)/AQF mandatory competency requirements for assessors. In addition, assessors must be a registered nurse or midwife with current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (Ahpra)

Mandatory Workplace Requirements

The candidate must perform the tasks outlined in the performance criteria of this unit during a period of at least 80 hours of work.

Unit Mapping Information

Previous Code and Title	Equivalence	Comments
HLTAIN001 Assist with nursing care in an acute care environment	Not equivalent	Major changes to performance criteria and performance evidence. Additions to knowledge evidence. Foundation skills added. Minor changes to application and assessment conditions.

Links

Companion volumes, including implementation guides, are found on the national training register - <https://training.gov.au/training/details/HLT>.