

Level 2 Award in Understanding the misuse of substances

August 2020

Guided Learning: 6 hours
Total Qualification Time: 10 hours

Ofqual Qualification Number 600/9959/8

Description:

This objective of this qualification is for individuals with an interest in health who are also interested in helping others develop a healthier lifestyle by stopping or reducing their misuse of substances. Learners will increase their knowledge and understanding of why people misuse substances, the personal and social consequences of this and how individuals can be helped and supported with regard to substance misuse.

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Unit YHC 9 Understanding the Misuse of Substances

Guided Learning: 6 hours

Total Unit Time): 10 hours

Unit Level: 2

Unit reference number: D/505/2139

Summary of Learning Outcomes:

To achieve this qualification a candidate must:

1. **Understand factors that result in people misusing substances, by being able to meet the following assessment criteria:**
 - 1.1 Describe **THREE** social factors that could result in the misuse of substances.
 - 1.2 Outline **THREE** factors that are individual-specific which could lead to the misuse of substances.
2. **Understand the personal and social consequences of substance misuse, by being able to meet the following assessment criteria:**
 - 2.1 Outline **THREE** direct effects on health of substance misuse.
 - 2.2 Identify **THREE** possible indirect effects on the individual due to substance misuse.
 - 2.3 Identify **THREE** effects on family members, friends and wider society due to substance misuse by individuals.
 - 2.4 Describe the adverse effects of **THREE** substances that are misused in the community.
3. **Know how to provide help and support to the individual with regard to substance misuse, by being able to meet the following assessment criteria:**
 - 3.1 List **THREE** agencies / organisations which provide services for individuals affected by substance misuse and outline the services provided.
 - 3.2 Describe **THREE** ways by which an individual could be encouraged to reduce their risk of harm from substance misuse.
 - 3.3 Identify **THREE** barriers to changing behaviour with regard to substance misuse and how these can be overcome.

Content:

1 Understand factors that result in people misusing substances,

- 1.1 *Social factors that could result in the misuse of substances:* Socio-economic status, employment, education, culture, price, availability, media.
- 1.2 *Factors that are individual-specific which could lead to the misuse of substances:* Parents, friends and family, peer pressure, age, health factors.

2 Understand the personal and social consequences of substance misuse,

- 2.1 *Direct effects on health of substance misuse:* Mental health issues, physical health, specific effects of named drugs.
- 2.2 *Possible indirect effects on the individual due to substance misuse:* Poor sexual health, risk taking, loss of inhibitions, poor nutrition, memory loss, criminality.
- 2.3 *Effects on family members, friends and wider society due to substance misuse by individuals:* Criminal behaviour, risk of prosecution, driving under the influence, child neglect.
- 2.4 *Adverse effects of substances that are misused in the community:* Appropriate descriptions of adverse effects according to substances selected.

3 Know how to provide help and support to the individual with regard to substance misuse

- 3.1 *Agencies / organisations which provide services for individuals affected by substance misuse and outline the services provided:* Examples include 'Talk to Frank', Add Action, Youth Services, local authority drug and alcohol advice teams.
- 3.2 *Ways by which an individual could be encouraged to reduce their risk of harm from substance misuse:* Support from peers and family, knowing facts about alcohol, awareness of behaviour, brief interventions, counselling and emotional support.
- 3.3 *Barriers to changing behaviour with regard to substance misuse and how these can be overcome:* Legal issues, shame, fear, peer pressure, denial, trust and confidentiality, lack of awareness and knowledge.

Methods for overcoming barriers such as education, aspirations, opportunities, motivation, self-efficacy.

Assessment:

Attainment of the Learning Outcomes for this qualification will be assessed by learners completing a workbook which covers each of the learning outcomes. The completed workbooks will be assessed by the centre and assessment decisions will be externally verified by RSPH.

Tutor and learner versions of the workbook are available from **Resources** in the Centre Area of the Qualifications section of the RSPH web-site (www.rsph.org.uk).

The workbook is provided by RSPH but centres can apply to RSPH for permission to develop their own workbooks or to use an alternative assessment method such as written examinations or multiple-choice examinations. Alternative assessment methods or workbooks cannot be used without the written approval of RSPH.

Centre Guidance:

Registration of Candidates:

Candidates must be registered with RSPH and have a candidate number before any work can be submitted for external verification.

Candidate registration forms can be downloaded from the Centre Area of the Qualifications section of the RSPH web-site (www.rsph.org.uk).

Submission of completed candidate workbooks:

Centres should follow the RSPH procedures for submitting internally assessed work for external verification. These can be found under **Resources** in the Centre Area of the Qualifications section of the RSPH web-site (www.rsph.org.uk). The workbooks (tutor and learner versions) can be obtained from **Resources**.

How to apply to offer this qualification:

To become a centre approved to offer this qualification, please complete the 'Centre Application Form' which can be found on our website in the Qualifications and Training section. If you are already an approved centre, please complete the 'Add an additional qualification form' which can be downloaded from the Centre area on the website www.rsph.org.uk. Please ensure that you include details of your quality assurance procedures. You will need to attach a CV to this application. Please contact the Qualifications Department at centreapproval@rsph.org.uk if you need any assistance.

National Occupational Standards:

The qualification has been mapped to the following National Occupational Standards of Skills for Health:

AB2.2012 Support individuals who misuse substances
AD1.2012 Raise awareness about substances, their use and effects
AJ1 Help individuals address their offending behaviour
AJ2 Enable individuals to change their offending behaviour
HT3 Enable individuals to change their behaviour to improve their own health and wellbeing

Further details of these National Occupational Standards can be obtained from RSPH Qualifications.

Special Assessment Needs:

Centres that have candidates with special assessment needs should consult The Society's Reasonable Adjustments and Special Consideration Policy; this is available from RSPH Qualifications and RSPH Qualification's web site (www.rsph.org).

Progression:

Learners who achieve this qualification can progress to the following qualifications:

RSPH Level 2 Award in Understanding Alcohol Misuse
RSPH Level 2 Award in Encouraging physical activity
RSPH Level 2 Award in Encouraging a Healthy Weight and Healthy Eating
RSPH Level 2 Award in Understanding Sexual Health
RSPH Level 2 Award in Supporting Smoking Cessation
RSPH Level 2 Award in Understanding Emotional Wellbeing
RSPH Level 2 Award in Understanding Health Improvement

Recommended Qualifications and Experience of Tutors:

The Society would expect that tutors have teaching experience and a qualification in a relevant subject area, but recognises that experienced teachers can often compensate for a lack of initial subject knowledge, or experienced practitioners for a lack of teaching experience.

Other Information:

All RSPH specifications are subject to review. Any changes to the assessment or learning outcomes will be notified to Centres in advance of their introduction. To check the currency of this version of the specification, please contact the Qualifications Department or consult the RSPH website.

Centres must be registered with RSPH.

Any enquiries about this qualification should be made to:

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