

## Questions and Answers

### Transitioning to the new Adult Care apprenticeship standards

26 June 2017

**I was under the impression that the diploma to be used for the apprenticeship was the clinical healthcare support qualification. I thought it was changed from the health and social care. Can you clarify?**

There are two separate trailblazer standards developments. One for adult care and the other in healthcare. They are led by two separate groups.

#### **Adult Care**

These standards contain health & social care or leadership in health & social care qualifications.

Adult care has the following standards:

Adult Care Worker Level 2

Lead Adult Care Worker Level 3

Lead Practitioner in Adult Care Level 4

Leader in Adult Care Level 5

#### **Healthcare**

Healthcare Support Worker Level 2:

There is no mandatory qualification but clinical healthcare support or Level 2 certificate in clinical skills could be used if the employer requests a qualification. Level 2 Diploma in Care (health option) would be an option from January 2018.

Senior Healthcare Support Worker Level 3:

There is a mandatory qualification, currently the healthcare diplomas at Level 3 eg Clinical Healthcare Support or Perioperative Support. From November 17 or January 2018 (tbc) there will be a new Diploma in Healthcare Level 3.

Assistant Practitioner (Healthcare) Level 5:

There is a mandatory qualification Level 5 Diploma in Healthcare (Assistant Practitioner)

**Just to clarify, there is no observations for HSC at any level but there is an observation for clinical healthcare Level 2 and 3?**

In the end-point assessment for adult care at Levels 2 and 3, the assessment methods as detailed in the assessment plan are:

1. Situational Judgement Test (Multiple Choice Questions)
2. Professional Discussion

There is no requirement for observation of practice in the end-point assessment. Observation of practice will be required as part of the assessment of the on-programme qualification.

Healthcare apprenticeship standards at all levels require observation of practice as part of the end-point assessment as ONE of the components. Details are included in each of the assessment plans.

**Why has the employer group (trailblazer group), decided not to allow resits for professional discussion with no consultation with the sector?**

It is within the remit of the employer group to make decisions regarding resits.

One resit is allowed for the situational judgement test and this should be the first element of the end-point assessment. This means that the apprentice will only access the professional discussion after they have successfully completed the test.

The key is to ensure that the apprentice is as prepared as they can be prior to their end-point assessment and that they take it when they are ready.

**What happens if the apprentice is not successful at the second attempt of the test or the first attempt at their professional discussion?**

The employer groups have been asked by the Institute for Apprenticeships to add the grade “fail” into the grading model which indicates that there is an expectation that this is a possible outcome.

If the apprentice fails their professional discussion then they are not able to achieve the whole apprenticeship and will not be awarded a completion certificate.

**As a HCS City & Guilds centre that do not currently offer apprenticeships, can we get involved in the EPA?**

City & Guilds will be recruiting independent end assessors for our EPA service. You can find out [information online](#).

**What is the salary for an independent end assessor?**

It would not be appropriate to use the term “salary” as the independent assessors will be recruited on a consultant basis. This means that they will only be paid for the work that they do. In the case of adult care, the Situational Judgement Test will be computer marked, as it will primarily be available online and the independent assessor role is to review the results and carry out the professional discussion, then to make their judgement and complete records.

The remuneration may also depend on the level of expertise the independent assessor needs to have and may vary for each standard.

**If a learner fails the professional discussion, do they need to undertake the qualification again?**

Once a qualification is achieved at the gateway, quality assured internally and externally, if required, the apprentice will be entitled to a qualification certificate. Once issued, this belongs to the apprentice and would not need to be repeated as it would have been awarded following the EPA processes which meet Ofqual regulations.

**Can learners resit the situational judgement test?**

Yes – in the assessment plan there is guidance on what support an apprentice must have before they resit, according to how they scored and whether additional learning needs to take place.

**Am I correct with thinking that no learners can be registered on the new standard until October?**

Apprentices can start on the standards now.

**Will the current frameworks we've been delivering be subject to EPA or will it just be the new standards?**

Frameworks do not contain an end-point assessment element, so can continue to be delivered until they close for any new starts at Level 2 and 3 in December 2017.

**Can the situational test have more than one resit?**

The assessment plan clearly states that one resit is permitted.

**Where employers need to make a 10% contribution to the funding of their apprenticeships, is there any support which employers can access to help with this?**

Employers may be able to access additional support through the [Skills for Care workforce Development Fund](#). There are criteria which the employer would need to meet in order to access this. Details can be found on the [Skills for Care website](#).