

Better Skills, Best Care

Role: Podiatry Assistant

Pilot setting

Caulfield Community Health Service – Podiatry Unit

Role description

This role extended the standard podiatry assistant role to provide basic foot care to low-risk, mostly elderly patients. The podiatry assistant followed a care plan of appropriate tasks developed from the patient's initial consultation with a podiatrist.

Tasks

The amended role added a clinical component to the tasks already delegated by the podiatrist. The following tasks were performed by the podiatry assistant:

- Provide basic foot care/foot hygiene to low risk clients. This includes pre-operative and post-operative care (such as washing, drying and application of antiseptics), nail care for non-pathological nails or low-risk pathological nails, skin care and application of basic first aid and dressings to minor wounds or injuries, and the application of wax baths as required
- Provide pressure relief or palliative care through use of felt padding, silicone devices, moleskin and fleecy web. The devices to be used are specifically listed, as they are limited in type
- Provide basic foot care education to low-risk clients
- Assess and educate regarding clients' footwear
- Generate and maintain appropriate client records
- Generate referrals to staff podiatrists and other health professionals
- Provide assistance to staff podiatrists with patient care
- Provide assistance to staff podiatrists with footwear modifications and orthotic modifications
- Assist with infection control procedures, including sterilisation of equipment and instruments
- Assist with reception or administrative duties as required
- Attend podiatry staff and CCHS meetings as required
- Contribute to the ongoing development of the Podiatry Unit

Education and training

HLT42507 Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance is the appropriate qualification for this role. The mandated cluster for podiatry should be included in the elective units of the qualification. See www.ntis.gov.au for full course details.

In addition to the recommended qualification and its elective clusters, the following competencies should be considered. In most cases, they can be included as electives in the qualification.

- Provide support to an older person (CHCAC1C)
- Operate referral procedures (CHCCS407A)
- Provide specific information to clients (HLTCOM301B)

Providers

Delivery of qualifications and units of competency from the new Health Training Package HLT07 requires TAFE institutes and private Registered Training Organisations to formally apply to the Office of Training and Tertiary Education for Registration to deliver training. It is anticipated delivery could commence by Semester 1, 2008. Information about VET providers can be accessed on www.ntis.gov.au

Costs associated with undertaking training

Until nominal hours for delivery of units are established, costs of delivery cannot be stated.

Training gaps and delivery options

Some skills may be developed through in-house training, where site-specific requirements can be addressed.

This qualification is suited to Australian Apprenticeship pathways.

Contact details for piloted role

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