A Course for Healthcare Assistants/Assistant Practitioners working in Primary Care and their mentors

THE PHILOSOPHY

The role of the Healthcare Assistant/Assistant Practitioner in primary care may involve providing basic ear care, including irrigation

This course is designed to ensure that those Assistants who are expected to irrigate are able to do so confidently and safely

The course provides knowledge and practical guidance, which, together with mentorship in situ, should enable Healthcare Assistants/Assistant Practitioners to fulfil their extended role

Please note – following the course the student will require practical supervision by a suitable mentor who has received training in ear care. The mentor must be identified, and approved, prior to commencing the course and must attend the Mentoring & Delegation Workshop which takes place on the first day of this course

COURSE CONTENT

The course consists of two taught days, followed by three months of practical experience

During this time, a mentor is required to provide support and supervision in order to complete a programme of clinical competence

Participants will be expected to have studied a pre-course package on basic anatomy and physiology prior to starting the course

DAY 1

**Students and their mentors will study the first part of Day 1 together**

9.30 am Introduction to the Course
10.30 am Coffee/Tea
10.45 am Anatomy and Physiology
11.30 am Common ear problems including hearing loss
12.30 pm Lunch
1.15 pm Introduction to otoscopy and the video otoscope
2.00 pm Theory of irrigation and demonstration + practice on dummy head
3.00 pm Coffee/Tea
3.15 pm Mentors only:
   Introduction to mentoring and delegation
3.15 pm HCAs only:
   Documentation
3.30 pm Hearing aids and tinnitus
4.30 pm Close

DAY 2

**Healthcare Assistants/Assistant practitioners only**

9.30 am Re-cap
10.30 am Decontamination of equipment
11.00 am Coffee/Tea
11.15 am Discussion on clinical experience
11.30 am Written assessment
12.30 pm Lunch
1.30 pm Results of written assessment and individual oral discussion
3.30 pm Conclusion and Evaluation
4.00 pm Close

Healthcare Assistants/Assistant Practitioners are required to pass a written assessment and oral discussion

Following the course, in addition to the period of supervision by their mentor the student is also required to write a case study involving irrigation and complete a programme of clinical competence
LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will have:-

a. an understanding of the basic anatomy and physiology of the ear
b. an understanding of basic ear care
c. a foundation of knowledge on which to base practical ear irrigation
d. a foundation knowledge of otoscopy
e. reflected on accountability and documentation
f. an understanding that, during and following completion of the Course, they will undertake ear irrigation within appropriately delegated, monitored and supervised conditions and within the limits of their knowledge, skill and competence
g. an understanding that, following the Course, ear irrigation will continue to be undertaken in accordance with the Ear Care Guidance Document

January 2010
MENTORING AND DELEGATION WORKSHOP
FOR MENTORS OF HEALTHCARE
ASSISTANTS/ASSISTANT PRACTITIONERS

PROGRAMME

** Students and their mentors will study together during the first part of the day

9.30 am  Introduction to the Course
10.30 am  Tea/Coffee
10.45 am  Anatomy and physiology
11.30 am  Common ear problems, including hearing loss
12.30 pm  Lunch
1.15 pm  Introduction to otoscopy and the video otoscope
2.00 pm  Theory of irrigation and demonstration
3.00 pm  Tea/Coffee

3.15 pm  Delegates will split into their separate groups at this point
3.15 pm  Introduction to mentoring and delegation including accountability issues
4.30 pm  Close

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Participants will have:-

1. A revision of basic anatomy and physiology of the ear
2. An understanding of the prevention of ear problems
3. A revision of safe aural toilet, wax instrumentation and irrigation
4. Reflected on delegation
5. Considered the role of the mentor