

Qualification Purpose Statement

Qualification title

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of the Prevention and Control of Infection in Health Care Settings (600/9312/2)

Qualification overview

The primary purpose of this qualification is to prepare you to either enter or progress within employment in the Health and Social Care sector.

To support you, this qualification aims to help you understand:

- the meaning and importance of infection control
- the causes of infections, the conditions in which they thrive, and the ways that they can be spread
- the methods used to prevent and control the spread of infection.

This objective of this qualification is to help you to:

- gain knowledge and understanding of infection prevention and control, to support your role in a Health or Social Care workplace
- progress onto further learning in this area or within the wider area of Health and Social Care.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is designed for a wide range of learners who wish to gain an understanding in the prevention and control of infection within healthcare settings.

Age restrictions

You must be at least 16 years old to take this qualification. Entry is at the discretion of the centre.

Entry requirements

You don't need to have any specific prior learning requirements to take this qualification, but you may find it helpful if you've already achieved a Level 1 qualification in the Health and Social Care area.

Qualification content

The qualification provides you with the underpinning knowledge and understanding of the prevention and control of infections in healthcare settings and will support your role in the workplace.

Understanding the principles of infection prevention and control is essential when working within all healthcare settings. Importance of personal hygiene and health ensures you remain healthy in the workplace and don't either contribute to, or cause the spread of infection within your workplace.

This qualification contains 4 mandatory units which cover the following topics:

Mandatory units

- Unit 01 Principles of the causes and spread of infection in health care settings (3 credits)
You'll learn how infection is caused and understand how it can be spread in a healthcare setting.
- Unit 02 Principles of the importance of personal hygiene and health in the prevention and control of infection in health care settings (2 credits)
You'll gain an understanding of the importance of personal hygiene and health in helping to prevent infection in a health care setting.
- Unit 03 Principles of decontamination, cleaning and waste management in health care settings (5 credits)
You'll understand the importance of cleaning, decontamination, and waste management to prevent infection in a healthcare setting.
- Unit 04 Principles of infection prevention and control in a health care setting (5 credits)
You'll understand the purpose of infection control, and also the policy, roles, and responsibilities relating to infection control.

Optional units

Please see the Qualification Specification on the qualification webpage which lists the optional units available for you to choose from.

What type of qualification is this?

This is a vocationally related qualification with 111 guided learning hours. During this time you can expect to be involved in formal learning activities which could include classes, tutorials, seminars, or workshops. You'll be expected to work independently, researching the subjects and preparing for classroom-based activities.

100 per cent of this qualification focuses on developing your understanding in the principles of prevention and control of infection in healthcare settings.

This is a standalone qualification and is not part of an Apprenticeship Framework.

Progression opportunities

Successful completion of this qualification will help to support a variety of job roles within the Health and Social Care sectors where there's a requirement to maintain a healthy and hygienic environment as part the role.

Completion of this qualification could enable you to progress into the following roles within the sector - either as a new entrant or as part of your ongoing career development:

- support worker (supported living)
- healthcare support service worker
- clinical healthcare support worker
- nursing/healthcare assistant
- mental health support worker/outreach worker
- substance misuse worker
- health education/ promotion worker
- care assistants/support workers/key workers in residential settings
- healthcare assistants and support workers in community and primary care environments
- healthcare assistants and support workers in acute health environments
- care assistants/support workers/key workers in domiciliary services
- care assistants/support workers/key workers in day services
- personal assistants employed directly by the individual they support or their families.

You could also progress to the following Apprenticeships:

- Advanced level Apprenticeship in Health and Social Care
- Advanced Level Apprenticeship in Health (Clinical Healthcare Support)
- Advanced Level Apprenticeship in Health (Healthcare Support Services)

If you're interested in progressing to further your study at the next level of vocational learning, the following qualifications are also available as a progression route:

- Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) for England
- Level 3 Certificate in Preparing to Work in Adult Social Care
- Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of End of Life Care
- Level 3 Certificate for Working in the Health Sector
- Level 3 Certificate in Stroke Care Management
- Level 3 Diploma in Allied Health Profession Support

Similar qualifications

In addition to this qualification, we also offer the Level 2 Award in the Prevention and Control of Infection which consists of 3 units covering the principles of infection prevention and control, the causes and spread of infection and cleaning, and decontamination and waste management.

This qualification also covers these areas but considers them from a healthcare setting, so you'll also understand the importance of the prevention and control of infection within this area. In addition to this, you'll also study and understand the importance of personal hygiene and health in context to the prevention and control of infection.

This Certificate will develop your knowledge and understanding in this area and support you in your role in the healthcare setting.

Support for this qualification

The qualification is supported by employers from the Health and Social Care sector.

For further information about these employers please contact CACHE on 0345 347 2123 or email us at info@cache.org.uk.