

## **HSC342            Assess and act upon immediate risk of danger to substance users (Level 3)**

### **Elements of Competence**

- HSC342a**            Assess the immediate risk of danger to the individual
- HSC342b**            Act upon the immediate risk of danger to the individual
- HSC342c**            Support the individual after the immediate risk of danger has passed

### **About this unit**

For this unit you will need to assess the immediate risk of danger to individuals who have used substances, act upon the immediate risk of danger and support the individual once the immediate risk of danger has passed.

### **Scope**

The scope is here to give you guidance on possible areas to be covered in this unit. The terms in this section give you a list of options linked with items in the performance criteria. You need to provide evidence for any option related to your work area.

**Substances:** illegal drugs; prescription drugs; over the counter drugs; alcohol; solvents; other.

**Risk of danger:** of overdose; of individuals causing injury or harm to themselves; of causing injury or harm to people around the individual; of causing injury or harm to people working with the individual.

**Support and assistance from:** people around the individual; colleagues within your service/agency; emergency services.

**Needs:** personal (e.g. washing, eating and drinking, dressing); mobility (e.g. transportation); further immediate treatment and care.

**Consequences:** to themselves; to their family and significant others; to people working with the individual.

**Required format:** verbal; written.

This is Drugs and Alcohol National Occupational Standard (DANOS) AB5.

**HSC342a** Assess the immediate risk of danger to the individual

**Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you ascertain any signs of immediate **risk of danger**
2. you request further support and assistance, as required, without delay
3. you ascertain your own and any person near the individual's personal safety
4. you make the individual aware that you are available and willing to help
5. you obtain personal details from the individual or any person near the individual who has used the **substance**
6. you obtain information on the substance used from the individual or any person near the individual who has used the substance
7. you encourage the individual to describe any pain or discomfort they may be experiencing
8. you accurately record all information about the episode and report to appropriate person in the **required format**

**HSC342b** Act upon the immediate risk of danger to the individual

**Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you act upon the immediate risks to danger consistent with agency policies and procedures and your own role
2. you request further support and assistance, if required, without delay
3. you ensure your own personal safety and of any other person near the individual
4. you take actions which are appropriate to the substance used and the effect it has had on the individual
5. you take steps to calm the individual, if the individual is in an agitated state, if safe to do so
6. you take immediate steps to revive the individual, if the individual seems to be in a withdrawn state
7. you administer first aid, if safe to do so
8. you interact with the individual in a manner which recognises their needs and rights
9. you make the individual as comfortable as possible and only move the individual if necessary for their safety
10. you make the environment as safe as possible and remove all dangerous substances and materials
11. you accurately record all information and report to the appropriate person in the required format

**HSC342c** Support the individual after the immediate risk of danger has passed

**Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you make the individual aware that you are available and willing to help
2. you interact with the individual in a manner which recognises their needs and rights
3. you support the individual to enable them to meet their **needs**
4. you encourage the individual to recognise the **consequences** of the episode
5. you encourage the individual to seek further support and assistance
6. you accurately record all information and report to the appropriate person in the required format

## **Knowledge Specification for the whole of this unit**

Competent practice is a combination of the application of skills and knowledge informed by values and ethics. This specification details the knowledge and understanding required to carry out competent practice in the performance described in this unit.

When using this specification **it is important to read the knowledge requirements in relation to expectations and requirements of your job role.**

You need to show that you know, understand and can apply in practice:

### **Values**

1. the rights of individuals with whom you come into contact

### **Legislation and organisational policy and procedures**

2. legal and organisational requirements and policies requirements relevant to the functions being carried out

#### Legislation

3. legal requirements relevant to the functions being carried out

#### Local knowledge

4. the partner agencies in the local area

#### Organisational context

5. the organisation's policies and procedures in dealing with risk of danger to individuals

### **Theory and practice**

#### Communication and interpersonal skills

6. how to communicate effectively in a range of different settings
7. how to calm individuals who have used substances
8. how to calm other people in the immediate vicinity

#### First aid

9. when and how to move an individual to make them comfortable
10. when and how to administer first aid to individuals
11. when to call the emergency services

#### Information handling

12. the importance of gathering full and accurate information and how to do so

#### Reporting

13. how to report accurately
14. the importance of stating any gaps in information or assumptions made

#### Substance misuse

15. how to recognise and deal with immediate risk of danger to individuals who have used substances
16. the range of different substances and their effects
17. the appropriate actions / options available when the immediate risk of danger has passed.

