

Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners?

The Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners is a competence based qualification which is assessed in the workplace. It is a nationally recognised qualification and provides evidence of transferrable skills that support academic and personal development. It is on the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF), regulated by Ofqual, the qualifications regulator in England and Northern Ireland. This qualification replaces previous education and training provision provided by the University of Salford (Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm), City & Guilds (Diabetic Eye) and formalises the existing Newborn Hearing Screening training into a regulated qualification.

2. Why was it introduced and by who?

From 1st April 2016 Public Health England Screening, with support from Skills for Health (SfH) and Health Education England (HEE), introduced a new qualification for new clinical non-professionally regulated screening staff in the NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme (NDESP), NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Programme (NAAASP) and NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme (NHSP).

The qualification will provide screening staff with a nationally recognised qualification which ensures they have the knowledge and skills required to work within in a healthcare setting and NHS screening programmes. It will enable staff to gain a qualification they can use to support career progression and their own personal development.

The qualification has been designed to reflect work based learning and compliment previous methods of training. Learners should not have to undertake significantly more work than the previous methods of training. However, learners are expected to provide further evidence and formalisation of additional learning outcomes for a number of mandatory units that cover the competencies required to work within a health care setting.

3. Who has to take the new qualification?

From 1st April 2016, all new non-registered clinical staff working in screening services in AAA or Diabetic Eye will undertake the new qualification. New Newborn Hearing screeners will commence this training in 2017. Existing staff that have completed previous training courses (University of Salford (Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm), City & Guilds (Diabetic Eye) and the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, do not need to take this qualification.



4. How can I start the qualification?

Learners need to be employed within one of the three NHS screening programmes to undertake the qualification. To be able to register new staff for the qualification, local screening programmes will have to register with one of the approved centres of the Awarding Organisations offering this qualification.

The Awarding Organisations that offer the qualification in England are:

- FutureQuals
- Innovate Awarding
- NOCN
- Pearson

5. How long does the qualification take?

The qualification should take between 6-12 months to complete.

6. How does my organisation register to train learners?

Local screening programmes will have to register their new learners and their assessors with an approved awarding centre for one of the Awarding Organisations.

Approved centres are the administrative hubs for the qualification and they are responsible for the oversight, administration and registration of the assessors and learners. They are also responsible for the quality assurance of the provision of the qualification in local screening programmes.

A list of the current approved centres for the qualification is available on request from the PHE screening helpdesk PHE.screeninghelpdesk@nhs.net

If your Trust is not already registered with an Awarding Organisation, you may wish to become an approved centre. Your organisation could then offer the qualification to other screening programmes across the country. You will need to contact one of the four Awarding Organisations to discuss the process of applying to be an approved centre:

Future Awards and Qualifications <http://www.futurequals.com/>

Innovate Awarding <https://www.innovateawarding.org/>

NOCN <http://www.nocn.org.uk/>

Pearson <https://uk.pearson.com/>

7. What is the structure of the qualification?

There are 13 mandatory units these will cover the knowledge and skills required to work within a healthcare setting. These mandatory units should encompass content already covered in the induction and training of new clinical staff in local programmes. The different screening programmes will then have a number of programme specific units that staff must undertake.



Learners undertaking the AAA route have three programme specific units plus the mandatory units. Newborn Hearing learners will undertake the mandatory plus five programme specific units.

There are three pathways for Diabetic Eye learners – screener, screener-grader and grader. The number of units undertaken will depend on which Diabetic Eye pathway you choose.

8. How is the qualification assessed?

All learning is undertaken within the work place and all assessments are based on demonstrating and evidencing work place based competence.

9. How do I become an assessor?

To be able to assess the Level 3 Diploma for Health Screeners individuals must have (or be working towards) an appropriate assessor qualification. The appropriate qualification is the Level 3 Certificate in Assessing Vocational Achievement (CAVA).

PHE screening has developed a streamlined process to enable assessors to obtain the CAVA as quickly as possible by taking into consideration recognition for prior learning and assessing experience. Details on how to access this process are being sent to local screening programmes. Assessors already holding the D32/33 or A1 qualifications are not required to re-qualify or retake the CAVA qualification.

10. How is this qualification funded?

Health Education England (HEE) has provided a limited amount of funding for the qualification during 2016/17. PHE will be administering these funds on behalf of HEE. Further details will be available on how to apply for funding here <http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/healthscreeenerqualification>

11. Where can I access further information and resources?

You can access further information from the programme specific pages on the PHE Screening website:

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm <http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/aaa>

Diabetic Eye <http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/cms.php?folder=5165>

Newborn Hearing <http://cpd.screening.nhs.uk/newbornhearing>

