
Practical examination criteria

BT4A2 – Level 4 Award in Skin Needling

610/1635/4

Practical examination criteria

Learners must complete a practical examination for BT4A2 Level 4 Award in Skin Needling which will be externally set by the awarding organisation and examined and marked by an external examiner. Learners will be expected to demonstrate excellent hygiene and client care throughout as well as competence in their relevant skills. The examiner may reduce the treatment timings, as the examination is a demonstration of the learner's professionalism and their accomplished technique.

A maximum of 6 learners to be examined at one time.

Client requirements

Centres must identify suitable clients for the examination. Centres may ask learners to identify suitable clients.

Clients must meet all of the following requirements. Specifically, clients must:

- be 18 years or over
- not be contra-indicated for cosmetic skin needling treatments
- not be hypersensitive to pain or pressure
- be willing to have cosmetic skin needling treatments
- be willing to divulge relevant personal and medical details for the purpose of consultation
- be prepared for the treatment to be carried out by a learner unknown to them
- not have practitioner knowledge or experience
- provide consent to participate

Potential clients must meet with centre staff who will establish suitability in relation to the specified client requirements, the suitability of the skin and health and safety requirements.

It is the responsibility of the Centre and learner to work collaboratively to ensure a suitable model is provided for the examination purposes.

Learners will be expected to perform the following:

Marking criteria for BT4A2 – Level 4 Award in Skin Needling

* Learners must achieve a minimum of 10 marks for the first 3 sections in order to pass.

*Appearance – 5 marks (1 mark each)

The learner demonstrated:

1. Clean, ironed professional wear, flat shoes, no visible underwear
2. Clean hair, neat and tied back/up if long and off the collar and face
3. Short, clean, well-manicured nails with no varnish and clean hands
4. No jewellery – with the exception of a wedding band and 1 pair of small stud earrings (religious jewellery must be taped)
5. No chewing gum, sucking sweets, body or breath odour

*Client care – 5 marks (1 mark each)

The learner:

1. Greeted and introduced self to client
2. Protected client's clothing and removed all jewellery
3. Explained the treatment procedure to the client, including treatment sensation, skin appearance post-treatment and duration
4. Correctly positioned self and client and ensured the client's comfort/modesty throughout
5. Maintained a positive and professional approach to client/colleagues throughout

*Preparation of area – 5 marks (1 mark each)

The learner:

1. Ensured that preparation complied with legal and organisational requirements
2. Ensured the area was clean and sterilised
3. Ensured all equipment, tools and products were available and ergonomically placed
4. Selected appropriate, clean and disposable PPE for client and self
5. Ensured the working environment was private and secure

Hygiene and sterilisation – 5 marks (1 marks each)

The learner:

1. Wiped equipment over with appropriate sanitiser before and after use
2. Sanitised hands before, during and after treatment as appropriate and applied sterile gloves
3. Replaced lids on products and used spatulas to remove products
4. Disposed of general and contaminated waste hygienically and appropriately
5. Maintained and sanitised working area and equipment appropriately, used and stored small equipment appropriately

Consultation – 5 marks (1 mark each)

The learner:

1. Demonstrated a variety of consultation techniques
2. Identified the client's medical history, pre-treatment skincare, lifestyle and aims of treatment
3. Checked patch test results, recognised any contra-indications and took appropriate actions
4. Established the condition and health of the skin and carried out a skin sensitivity test
5. Obtained signed informed consent and finalised and agreed the treatment plan

Advanced skin assessment – 10 marks (1 mark each)

The learner:

1. Selected the correct cleanser for the skin type
2. Performed a thorough cleansing routine twice
3. Removed make-up efficiently and thoroughly
4. Prepared the skin leaving it clean and free from cream/lotion
5. Performed the cleanse/preparation in a commercially acceptable time
6. Used a magnifying lamp and Wood's lamp
7. Performed a full skin assessment and identified skin health, conditions and characteristics
8. Identified client's primary and secondary concerns
9. Identified factors which limited or affected the desired outcome
10. Took pre-treatment photographs

Cosmetic skin needling treatment – 15 marks (see below)

The Learner:

1. Demonstrated the correct preparation of the skin and allowed sufficient time for the skin to air dry (2 marks)
2. Removed the appropriate cosmetic skin needling device from its sterile, sealed container (2 marks)
3. Verbally communicated with the client throughout the treatment using the 1-10 pain threshold scale (3 marks)
4. Concluded treatment in an appropriate manner including cooling products where applicable and the application of post treatment products (3 marks)
5. Completed the treatment in a commercially acceptable time (3 marks)
6. Took post-treatment photographs (2 marks)

Cosmetic skin needling treatment technique – 35 marks (see below)

The Learner:

1. Selected cosmetic needling device to match treatment objectives and needle size (5 marks)
2. Applied a systematic approach to the treatment application (5 marks)
3. Performed the treatment in line with legal and organisational requirements (5 marks)
4. Supported the skin in the correct manner during the skin needling treatment (5 marks)
5. Observed skin conditions, monitored treatment effects, skin reactions and client's response throughout the treatment (10 marks)
6. Adapted the treatment to meet the client's needs (5 marks)

Post care/homecare – 10 marks (2 marks each)

The learner:

1. Evaluated and noted treatment results
2. Informed the client of the short-term effects of the treatment
3. Discussed homecare, post treatment skincare and recommendations for ongoing treatment with the client
4. Discussed possible contra-actions and how to deal with them
5. Discussed post-care requirements with the client and obtained signature for treatment results and ongoing home care requirements

Sample oral questions – 5 marks (1 mark each)

1. How does the treatment work?
2. Describe the effects and benefits of cosmetic skin needling
3. What safety precautions should you take with the equipment?
4. What determines the selection of the needle size?
5. What is the correct way to prepare the area for treatment?
6. How long will any skin reaction last?
7. What post-care treatment should be given?
8. What is the recommended treatment time?
9. What specific hygiene procedures should be taken with this treatment?
10. What is the correct method for needle disposal?

Document History

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