
Practical examination criteria

BT4A13 – Level 4 Award in High Intensity Focused
Ultrasound (HIFU)

Practical examination criteria

Learners must complete a practical examination for BT4A13 Level 4 Award in High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) which will be externally set by the awarding organisation and conducted by an external examiner.

Learners will be expected to demonstrate excellent hygiene and client care throughout as well as competence in their relevant skills.

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 HIFU treatments
- be willing to have HIFU 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 examination purposes.

Learners will be expected to perform the following:

Marking criteria for BT4A13 – Level 4 Award in High Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU)

*Learners must achieve a minimum of 7 marks for the first 2 sections in order to pass.

*Client care – 5 marks (1 mark each)

The learner:

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

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

The learner:

1. Ensured that preparation complied with health and safety protocols and legislation
2. Ensured the area was clean and sanitised
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 mark each)

The learner:

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

Consultation – 6 marks (1 mark each)

The learner:

1. Demonstrated a variety of consultation techniques and discussed the management of pain relief options
2. Identified the client's medical history, pre-treatment skincare, lifestyle and aims of treatment
3. Established the condition and health of the skin, carried out a skin sensitivity test
4. Recognised any contra-indications and took appropriate actions
5. Confirmed the client has understood and agreed to treatment following the cooling off period
6. Obtained signed informed consent and finalised and agreed the treatment plan

Advanced Skin Assessment – 9 marks (1 mark each)

The learner:

1. Cleansed and prepared the skin leaving it clean and free from product
2. Used illuminated magnifying and analysis equipment appropriately
3. Performed a full skin assessment, identified skin health, conditions and characteristics
4. Carried out thermal and tactile tests to the area(s) being treated
5. Recorded outcomes of all tests performed
6. Identified factors which may limit or affect the desired outcome
7. Identified realistic and achievable outcomes
8. Took pre-treatment photographs
9. Carried out all preparation in a commercially acceptable time

HIFU treatment – 15 marks (see below)

The learner:

1. Demonstrated the correct preparation of the area including the use of a topical anaesthetic if required (2 marks)
2. Mapped out the treatment area in a grid and blanked out areas not to be treated (2 marks)
3. Applied ultrasound gel in accordance with the individual targeted treatment objectives (1 mark)
4. Selected the correct treatment heads for the area(s) to be treated in line with treatment outcomes and objectives (3 marks)
5. Verbally communicated with the client throughout the treatment using the 1-10 pain threshold scale (2 marks)
6. Removed excess gel and concluded the treatment in an appropriate manner including the application of post treatment products (2 marks)
7. Worked and completed the treatment in a commercially acceptable time (2 marks)
8. Took post treatment photographs (1 mark)

HIFU treatment technique – 40 marks (see below)

The learner:

1. Selected the appropriate transducer/cartridge/treatment heads and products to meet the agreed treatment aims (5 marks)
2. Performed the treatment in line with legal and organisational requirements (5 marks)
3. Worked in a methodical and systematic manner keeping within the mapped area(s) avoiding uneven treatment, excessive overlap and overworking the area (10 marks)
4. Changed transducer/cartridge/treatment heads and adjusted equipment settings and parameters adapting the angle, direction and pressure of application as appropriate to each area and condition treated (10 marks)
5. Demonstrated adequate support and appropriate access to all treatment areas, ensuring client comfort and modesty throughout (3 marks)
6. Observed the skin condition, monitored treatment effects, skin reactions and client response adapting the treatment to meet the needs of the client and the treatment objectives (5 marks)
7. Knew when to stop or adjust the treatment as appropriate (2 marks)

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

The learner:

1. Gained client feedback and evaluated and noted treatment results
2. Informed the client of the short, medium and long-term effects of the treatment
3. Discussed home care, post treatment skincare products and recommendations for ongoing treatment and appropriate timescales
4. Discussed possible contra-actions and adverse reactions and how to deal with them
5. Discussed post-care requirements with the client, obtained signature for treatment and recorded all treatment details in line with organisational requirements and current legislation

Sample oral questions – 5 marks (1 mark each)

1. What factors should be considered when mapping and drawing a grid?
2. What is the benefit of a skin priming programme at home prior to the treatment?
3. What safety precautions should be taken with the equipment?
4. What is the purpose of ultrasound gel?
5. What is the correct way to prepare the area for treatment?
6. What skin sensations might the client feel post treatment?
7. What post care treatment should be given?
8. Why is it important to stay within the mapped area?
9. What specific hygiene procedures should be followed with this treatment?
10. What determines the selection of treatment heads?

Document History

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