

iUBT308 – Apply and maintain nail enhancements

URN – D/617/4283

Guided Learning Hours: 111

Learning outcome	Assessment criteria	Taught content to include
LO1 Be able to prepare for nail enhancements services	1.1. Prepare self, client and work area for nail enhancement services	• Preparation of working area • Equipment • Products • Work wear • Personal appearance and behaviour • Hygiene e.g. sterilising/sanitising tools and equipment • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Procedures used to prepare client for treatment • Client care and modesty
	1.2. Use suitable consultation techniques to identify treatment objectives	• Suitable area • Positive body language • Positioning of the client • Communication skills • Professionalism • Contra-indications and contra-actions • Treatment plan • Products used • Consent • Confidentiality • Client's signature
	1.3. Carry out nail and skin analysis	• Skin type and condition • Nail type and condition • Natural nail shape e.g. oval, square, hook, fan, ski jump • Nail formation • Nail thickness • Factors affecting nail growth:

		- Health - Age - Diet - Medication - Climate - Damage - Lifestyle
	1.4. Provide clear recommendations to the client	• Taking into account the following: - The outcome of the skin and nail analysis - Client requirements - Occupation - Lifestyle - Current regime - Identification of the appropriate nail enhancement system - Recommendations for ongoing maintenance treatments and the level of commitment required - Managing client's expectations and realistic achievable outcome
	1.5. Select products, tools and equipment to suit client treatment needs, skin types and nail conditions	• Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Magnifying lamp • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disinfecting fluid • Tissues • Lint free pads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet • Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser • Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • Files • Buffers • Brushes appropriate to the system

		• Orange wood stick • Cuticle tools • Clippers • Scissors • Appropriate light source i.e. UV or LED • Nail tips • Tip cutters • Hand sanitiser • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): face mask, protective gloves • Covered dappen dish • Sculpting forms • Natural nail cleanser • Nail preparation products • Adhesives • Oils • Acetone free nail polish remover • Acetone • Base coat • Top coat • Enamel • Products, tools and equipment applicable for the following nail enhancement systems: - Liquid and powder ▪ Primer appropriate to the system and manufacturer's instructions ▪ Covered dappen dish ▪ Sable brush ▪ Acrylic liquid (monomer) ▪ Acrylic powders (polymer) to include: clear, pink, white, camouflage/mask pink/beige ▪ Appropriate files and buffers - Gel ▪ Primer appropriate to the system and manufacturer's instructions ▪ Nylon brush ▪ Gel base coat ▪ Builder gels to include: clear, pink, white, camouflage/mask pink/beige and coloured gels
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		▪ Gel top coat/sealer ▪ Gel cleanser ▪ Lint free wipes ▪ Appropriate light source UV/LED ▪ Appropriate files and buffers - Wraps ▪ Primer appropriate to the system and manufacturer's instructions ▪ Wraps: e.g. silk, fiberglass, muslin, linen/cotton, nylon, paper ▪ Resin; brush or nozzle application ▪ Activator; brush or spray application ▪ Appropriate files and buffers
	1.6. Describe salon requirements for preparing self, the client and work area	• Any particular rights, restrictions and Acts applicable to nail enhancement services • Code of practice/ethics • Insurance and professional association membership • Record keeping • Professional appearance
	1.7. Describe the environmental conditions suitable for nail enhancement services	• Lighting • Heating • Ventilation • Dust extraction • Noise levels • Available space • Music • General hygiene • Waste disposal including contaminated waste • Décor • Equipment • Privacy • Reception areas • General use/treatment areas • Safety aspects • Protective equipment
	1.8. Describe the different consultation techniques used to identify treatment objectives	• Positive body language • Positioning of the client (no barriers between self and client)

		• Good communication skills (asking open and/or closed questions where appropriate) • Verbal and non-verbal communication
	1.9. Explain the importance of carrying out a detailed nail and skin analysis	• Skin type and condition • Nail type, shape and condition i.e. dry, hook, fan, ski jump • Contra-indications • Scope of treatment(s) • Managing client expectations with realistic achievable outcomes • Identification of nail enhancement system suitability • Home care advice • Aftercare advice • Advice regarding maintenance and removal
	1.10. Describe how to select products, tools and equipment to suit client treatment needs, skin and nail conditions	• The importance of selecting the correct product, tools and equipment based upon client consultation, client requirements and skin and nail analysis • Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Magnifying lamp • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disinfecting fluid • Tissues • Lint free pads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet • Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser • Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • Files • Buffers • Brushes appropriate to the system • Orange wood stick • Cuticle tools • Clippers

		• Scissors • Appropriate light source i.e. UV or LED • Nail tips • Tip cutters • Hand sanitiser • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): face mask, protective glasses • Covered dappen dish • Sculpting forms • Natural nail cleanser • Nail preparation products • Adhesives • Oils • Acetone free nail polish remover • Acetone • Base coat • Top coat • Enamel • Products, tools and equipment applicable for the following nail enhancement systems: - Liquid and powder - Gel - Wraps
	1.11. Describe the different nail and skin conditions	• Beau's lines • Bitten nails • Blue nail • Brittle nails • Bruised nails • Discoloured nails • Dry nails • Flaking nails • Hang nails • Koilonychia • Lamella dystrophy • Leuconychia • Misshapen nails • Bacterial infection

		• Onychatrophia • Onychauxis • Onychia • Onychocryptosis • Onychogryphosis • Onycholysis • Onychomycosis (tinea unguium) • Onychophagy • Onychophyma • Onychoptosis • Onychorrhaxis • Paronychia (whitlow) • Pitting • Pterygium • Sepsis • Split nails • Transverse ridges • Vertical ridges • Weak nails • Mature skin • Young skin • Sensitive skin • Dehydrated skin • Dry skin • Dermatitis • Eczema • Psoriasis • Corns • Chilblains • Warts • Verrucae
	1.12. Explain the contra-indications to nail enhancement services	• Contra-indications requiring medical permission – in circumstances where medical permission cannot be obtained clients must sign an informed consent form stating that the treatment and its effects have been fully explained to them and confirm that they are willing to proceed without permission from their GP

		- Haemophilia - Any condition already being treated by a GP, dermatologist or another practitioner - Acute arthritis - Nervous or psychotic conditions - Recent operations on the area - Diabetes - Inflamed nerve - Undiagnosed pain - Acute rheumatism • Contra-indications that restrict treatment - Fever - Infectious or contagious diseases - Infectious or contagious diseases of the skin and nails - Under the influence of recreational drugs or alcohol - Diarrhoea and/or vomiting - Any known allergies - Undiagnosed lumps and bumps - Inflammation - Cuts - Bruises - Abrasions - Scar tissue (2 years for major operations and 6 months for a small scar) - Recent fractures (minimum 3 months) - Sunburn - Repetitive strain injury - Carpal tunnel syndrome - Loss of skin sensation - Severely bitten/damaged nails - Nail separation - Eczema - Psoriasis - Dermatitis - Broken bones
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LO2 Be able to provide nail enhancement services	2.1. Communicate and behave in a professional manner	• Checking consultations and contra-indications • Explaining the treatment to the client and agreeing a treatment plan • Benefits, limitations and co-operation required • Helping the client throughout the treatment • Positioning the client correctly • Sanitising client's hands as appropriate • Sanitising own hands as appropriate throughout treatment • Protecting the client's modesty at all times • Ensuring that the client is comfortable • Using appropriate covered supports • Adapt the nail enhancement treatments to suit the needs of the client • Ensuring client does not stand on floor with bare feet (where applicable) • Client care • Communication • Correct posture, hygiene and a professional approach to the client throughout treatment
	2.2. Follow health and safety working practices and Industry Code of Practice for Nail Services	• Fire Precautions Act • Health & Safety at Work Act • Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations • The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations • The Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations • The Manual Handling Operations Regulations • The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations • The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations • The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) • The Electricity at Work Regulations • Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) • Disability Discrimination Act • Data Protection Act/General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) • Adhere to all product safety precautions and manufacturers' instructions

		• Legislation which relates to the work being carried out, the environment and the client with whom the nail technician is working • Industry Code of Practice for nail services
	2.3. Position self and client correctly throughout the treatment	• Positioning of the client • Client comfort and support • Application of the treatments • Nail technician self-care • Nail technician maintaining correct working posture throughout treatment
	2.4. Use products, tools, equipment and techniques to suit clients service needs, nail and skin conditions	• Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Magnifying lamp • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disinfecting fluid • Tissues • Lint free pads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet • Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser • Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • Files • Buffers • Brushes appropriate to the system • Orange wood stick • Cuticle tools • Clippers • Scissors • Appropriate light source i.e. UV or LED • Nail tips • Tip cutters • Hand sanitiser

		• Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): face mask, protective glasses • Covered dappen dish • Sculpting forms • Natural nail cleanser • Nail preparation products • Adhesives • Oils • Acetone free nail polish remover • Acetone • Base coat • Top coat • Enamel • Products, tools, and equipment applicable for the following nail enhancement systems: - Liquid and powder - Gel - Wraps • Liquid and powder techniques - Natural overlay - Tip and overlay - Sculpting using pink and white - Bitten nails - Infill - Rebalance to include reposition of white product and smile line - Repair - Removal • Gel techniques - Natural overlay - Tip and overlay - Sculpting using pink and white - Bitten nails - Infill - Rebalance to include reposition of white product and smile line - Repair - Removal
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		• Wrap techniques - Natural nail repair - Natural overlay - Bitten nails - Tip and overlay - Infill - Rebalance to include reinforcement of stress area - Repair - Removal
	2.5. Complete the service to the satisfaction of the client	• Conclusion of treatment in appropriate manner to meet client's needs, manufacturer's instructions and nail enhancement system specification • Check service results with the client • Ensure a commercially acceptable result is achieved in line with client requirements
	2.6. Record and evaluate the results of the treatment	• Reviewing and recording treatment outcomes • Client response to service and feedback • Note benefits of the nail enhancement service • Product advice • Treatment recommendations • Home care advice • Store records in line with current data protection legislation
	2.7. Provide suitable aftercare advice	• Recommendations for immediate aftercare and treatment maintenance • Advice on the avoidance of activities which may cause contra-actions • Product recommendations • Lifestyle • Recommendation of specialist products • Recommendations on further salon maintenance treatments and frequency • Advice on removal including possible contra-actions if correct removal procedures not followed
	2.8. Explain how to communicate and behave in a professional manner	• Consultation • Treatment explanation and agreement • Client care • Hygiene

		• Good communication skills
	2.9. Describe health and safety working practices and Industry Code of Practice for nail services	• Fire Precautions Act • Health & Safety at Work Act • Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations • The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations • The Workplace (Health, Safety & Welfare) Regulations • The Manual Handling Operations Regulations • The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations • The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations • The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) • The Electricity at Work Regulations • Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) • Disability Discrimination Act • Data Protection Act/General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) • Industry Code of Practice for nail services • Adhere to all safety precautions and manufacturers' instructions for each nail enhancement system as follows: - Liquid and powder - Gel - Wraps
	2.10. Explain the importance of positioning self and the client correctly throughout the service	• Ensuring the client is comfortable and correctly supported • Nail technician maintaining correct posture throughout treatment • Nail technician self-care
	2.11. Explain the importance of using products, tools, equipment and techniques to suit clients service needs, nail and skin conditions	• Couch or chair • Trolley or manicure table • Stool • Magnifying lamp • Towels • Additional support if appropriate • Bedroll • Disinfecting fluid • Tissues • Lint free pads • Sterilising solution • UV cabinet

		• Autoclave • Hot bead steriliser • Chemical immersion equipment • Waste disposal • Files • Buffers • Brushes appropriate to the system • Orange wood stick • Cuticle tools • Clippers • Scissors • Appropriate light source i.e. UV or LED • Nail tips • Tip cutters • Hand sanitiser • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): face mask, protective glasses • Covered dappen dish • Sculpting forms • Natural nail cleanser • Nail preparation products • Adhesives • Oils • Acetone free nail polish remover • Acetone • Base coat • Top coat • Enamel • Products, tools, equipment and techniques applicable for the following nail enhancement systems: - Liquid and powder - Gel - Wraps • Awareness of industry trends and developments – products and techniques e.g. dip system, putty system
	2.12. Describe how services can be adapted to suit client service needs, nail and skin conditions	• Restrictions – contraindications and contra-actions • Nail shapes, types and conditions

		• Skin condition • Client preferences and commitment • Product availability and suitability • Time scales • Costs • Adapting the treatment to suit the needs of the client: - Liquid and powder - Gel - Wraps
	2.13. Describe how to maintain and remove nail enhancements	• Rate and process of nail growth • Aftercare and home care advice specific to each system • Infilling • Rebalancing • Repositioning of white tip product/smile line • Replacement of overlay • Repair of overlay • Identification of correct removal method • Removal procedures specific to nail enhancement system • Removal procedure timings
	2.14. State the contra-actions that may occur during and following service and how to respond	• Excessive erythema • Skin irritation • Exothermic reaction • Allergic reaction • Itching • Inflammation • Lifting • Premature loss of enhancement • Ridging • Shedding • Separation • Infection • Hang nail • Overexposure • Client abuse i.e. biting/picking • Damaged cuticle • Holes in nail plate • Bacterial infection of the nail

		• Dehydration • Discolouration • Sepsis • Loss of natural nail • Removal procedures • Cold purified water • Referral procedures
	2.15. Explain the importance of completing the service to the satisfaction of the client	• Concluding the service in appropriate manner to meet client's needs, manufacturer's instructions and nail enhancement specification • Check service results with client • Ongoing treatments
	2.16. Explain the importance of completing the treatment records	• Maintaining records • Recommendations for immediate aftercare • Recommendations for treatment maintenance and home care • Recommendations for use of specialised products if applicable • Lifestyle • Recommendations for further salon treatments • Recommendations regarding maintenance and removal including possible contra-actions of incorrect maintenance and removal • Compliance with current data protection legislation
	2.17. Describe the methods of evaluating the effectiveness of the treatment	• Maintaining records for accurate future treatment • Client feedback • Aftercare • Home care • Product advice • Compliance with current data protection legislation • Concluding the treatment in the correct manner to meet client's requirements • The treatment should be performed for the required amount of time efficiently and professionally ensuring the working area remains clean and tidy throughout
	2.18. Describe the chemical process involved in nail enhancement systems	• Polymerisation • Exothermic effect • Light curing • Light sources: UV/LED

		• Appropriate timings • Lamp wattage, positioning and safety • Activators and accelerators • Initiators • Monomers • Polymers • Oligomers • Primers • Solvents
	2.19. Describe the structure and functions of the nail and skin	• The nail - Free edge - Hyponychium - Eponychium - Perionychium - Lunula - Mantle - Cuticle - Nail plate - Nail bed - Nail fold - Matrix - Nail wall - Nail growth - Protection • The skin - Epidermis ▪ Stratum corneum ▪ Stratum lucidum ▪ Stratum granulosum ▪ Stratum spinosum/Malpighian layer ▪ Stratum germinativum/Basal layer - Dermis ▪ Blood supply ▪ Lymphatic supply ▪ Hair follicle ▪ Hair ▪ Sebaceous gland ▪ Sweat gland: eccrine and apocrine

		▪ Sensory nerve endings ▪ Dermal papilla ▪ Collagen ▪ Elastin ▪ Histiocytes ▪ Mast cells ▪ Fibroblasts ▪ Erector pili muscle ▪ Melanocytes - Subcutaneous/adipose layer ▪ The fatty layer underneath the dermis - Functions ▪ Secretion ▪ Heat regulation ▪ Absorption ▪ Protection/acid mantle (composition and formation) ▪ Elimination/excretion ▪ Sensation ▪ Vitamin D formation (7-dehydro-cholesterol)
	2.20. Describe the different natural nail shapes	• Fan • Hook • Oval • Pointed • Round • Ski jump/spoon • Square

Assessment

Portfolio of evidence containing:	Treatment evidence will be internally assessed by the college lecturer and verified by the external examiner (if sampled) to include: • Consultation including medical history • Nail and skin analysis • Nail enhancement service details including specific details of products used • Before and after photographs for each treatment • Client feedback • Aftercare and home care advice including retail recommendations and advice for further treatments • Learner and client signatures • Treatment date Nail enhancement treatments must include: • Liquid and powder - 1 full set coloured powder enhancements - 1 full set sculpted enhancement using pink and white powder - 1 rebalance and reposition of white product/smile line - 1 nail biter treated using tips and French opaque overlays - 1 removal • Gel - 1 full set coloured gel enhancements - 1 full set sculpted enhancements using pink and white gel - 1 rebalance and reposition of white product/smile line - 1 nail biter treated using tips and French opaque overlays - 1 removal • Wraps - 3 tip and fibreglass overlay - 1 rebalance with fabric - 1 removal technique Treatments must be evidenced through the use of signed and dated treatment evidence forms. See www.vtctskills.org.uk for sample form.
• Evidence of 15 nail enhancement treatments	
MCQ	
Practical examination	

Guide to taught content

The content contained within the unit specification is not prescriptive or exhaustive but is intended to provide helpful guidance to teachers and learners with the key areas that will be covered within the unit, and, relating to the kinds of evidence that should be provided for each assessment objective specific to the unit learning outcomes.

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
v1	20/09/2019	First published	Qualifications and Regulation Co-ordinator
v2	16/06/2026	Rebranding	Development Administrator