

DRAFT Defined Award Standards for
Safe Care Practice
(Minor Award, NFQ Level 5)

Award Title	Safe Care Practice
Teideal as Gaeilge	[To be translated]
Award Class	Minor Award
Level	NFQ Level 5 EQF Level 4
Credit Value	30 FET Credits
Mandatory/Elective	Mandatory

Purpose

This award is intended to equip learners with the relevant knowledge, skills and competence to effectively prevent and control infection in healthcare settings. It emphasises safe practices, the proper application of infection control procedures, and adherence to international and national guidelines.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:

1. Explain the principles, key policies, and guidelines for infection prevention and control, recognising the role of the infection control team and the healthcare assistant in a range of healthcare settings.
2. Describe common healthcare-associated infections, their modes of transmission, clinical features, and appropriate responses and preventive measures.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of antimicrobial resistance and blood borne viruses and the practical steps to prevent and manage them.
4. Demonstrate effective hand hygiene, personal protective equipment (PPE) usage, and aseptic techniques in accordance with infection control standards.
5. Demonstrate understanding and implementation of a range of cleaning, disinfection, and sterilisation procedures.

6. Adhere to relevant international and national guidelines and best practice when managing linen, waste, spillages, sharps and inoculation incidents while demonstrating an awareness of sustainability issues.
7. Use infection control records and relevant communication protocols to support safe, consistent and effective healthcare delivery.

Access

To access programmes leading to the above awards, learners should have achieved the knowledge, skills, and competence associated with NFQ Level 4 in the areas of literacy, numeracy, digital skills, communication, and personal effectiveness.

Learners must be able to communicate effectively with colleagues in the workplace through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This may be through a formal qualification or relevant life and work experience demonstrating equivalent learning.

Transfer

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Progression

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Learners may be assessed based on their prior knowledge and experience. This must be conducted in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the provider.

Specific Validation Requirements:

- Garda Vetting.
- Access to appropriate learning environment (work base learning) with up-to-date equipment, fixtures and fittings, cleaning agents and materials, disinfectants, antiseptics, sterilisers, waste disposal and personal protective equipment.
- Access to an environment and equipment replicating the appropriate healthcare setting (classroom).
- Work-based learning hours to be set in the application for validation.

Sector Specific Requirements:

- CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Assisted Mobility Training (Safe People Moving and Positioning Training) in accordance with current legislation and workplace health and safety policies.