

**DRAFT Defined Award Standards for  
Fundamentals of Healthcare  
(Special Purpose Award, NFQ Level 5)**

<b>Award Title</b>	Fundamentals of Healthcare
<b>Teideal as Gaeilge</b>	[To be translated]
<b>Award Class</b>	Special Purpose Award
<b>Level</b>	NFQ Level 5    EQF Level 4
<b>Credit Value</b>	45 FET Credits
<b>Mandatory/Elective</b>	Mandatory

**Purpose**

This award is intended to equip learners with relevant knowledge, skills and competence to work effectively in healthcare assistant roles across a range of healthcare settings, promoting best practice grounded in holistic, diverse and culturally responsive care across the lifespan.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:**

1. Provide person-centred care that upholds confidentiality, privacy, dignity, and respect, while showing compassion, empathy and cultural awareness in all interactions with individuals from diverse backgrounds and across the lifespan.
2. Apply standardised assessment and care planning tools effectively to support the delivery of safe, consistent, and high-quality care that meets individual needs.
3. Demonstrate a range of appropriate communication skills along with the accurate use of medical terminology while maintaining timely, clear, concise, and accurate records to support safe and effective healthcare delivery.
4. Adapt care practices to meet the diverse needs of individuals in their Activities of Daily Living, drawing on an understanding of appropriate care models & approaches rooted in quality care that promote independence, well-being, and person-centered care across the lifespan.

5. Demonstrate an awareness of how illness, health status, wellbeing, and socio-cultural factors influence an individual's care needs, experiences, & responses, and apply this knowledge to deliver holistic and person-centred care.
6. Recognise the individual needs of dying persons and their families and exercise respectful care practices after death.
7. Apply non-pharmacological interventions tailored to individual health needs and identify when to escalate concerns or seek additional support in accordance with care protocols.
8. Demonstrate the knowledge, skill & competence required to accurately assess & monitor vital signs observations in accordance with best practice.
9. Explore the role and responsibilities of the healthcare assistant, including adherence to ethical principles, professional boundaries, and accountability in the delivery of safe, respectful, and person-centred care.
10. Build and maintain therapeutic relationships by advocating effectively for patients, practising self-regulation, and communicating sensitively when navigating challenging healthcare situations.
11. Explore the impact of nutrition on health and well-being across the lifespan, supporting individuals with diverse dietary needs.
12. Engage in reflective practice to enhance professional practice and personal development, fostering self-awareness and a commitment to continuous improvement.

### **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.