

DRAFT Defined Award Standards for
Pre-nursing Care Skills
(Minor Award, NFQ Level 5)

Award Title	Pre-nursing Care Skills
Teideal as Gaeilge	[To be translated]
Award Class	Minor Award
Level	NFQ Level 5 EQF Level 4
Credit Value	25 FET Credits
Mandatory/Elective	Mandatory

Purpose

This award is intended to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill, and competence to deliver person-centred care to individuals across a range of healthcare settings, with a particular focus on supporting nursing care.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:

1. Demonstrate person-centred care practices in supporting individuals with activities of daily living, including hygiene, mobility, nutrition, and elimination, with dignity and respect for individual rights and preferences.
2. Assist individuals with complex care needs (including older persons, those with dementia, physical/sensory impairments, or chronic conditions) using safe, evidence-based, and ethically sound techniques.
3. Apply principles of infection prevention and control, including the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), hand hygiene, and environmental hygiene in accordance with standard precautions and organisational policies.
4. Support mobility and safe moving and handling procedures, using appropriate techniques and equipment, and adhering to current health and safety legislation and organisational protocols.

5. Observe, measure, and accurately record key clinical indicators, including temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure, and fluid intake/output, identifying deviations and reporting appropriately.
6. Respond to the emotional, psychological, and communication needs of individuals, demonstrating empathy, respect, and appropriate interpersonal skills in diverse care settings.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of advocacy by recognising when and how to support individuals in expressing their needs, culture, beliefs, preferences, and rights at end-of-life, while recognising the care worker's own role and boundaries in the process.
8. Reflect on personal practice and the role of the healthcare worker within a multidisciplinary team, demonstrating understanding of professional conduct, confidentiality, ethics, and personal responsibility in a nursing support role.

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 clinical 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 clinical 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.