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 www.lhpskillnet.ie
 qqicourses@lhpskillnet.ie
 (01) 218 7698



Leading
Healthcare
Providers

Skillnet

CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (QQI LEVEL 5)

Programme Manual

Leading Healthcare Providers Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and network companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
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CERTIFICATE IN HEALTHCARE SUPPORT (QQI LEVEL 5)

The Certificate in Healthcare Support (QQI Level 5, Major Award) is the industry-standard qualification for aspiring Healthcare Assistants in the Republic of Ireland.

To earn this qualification, students must successfully complete eight modules chosen from a list specified by the national awards body, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).



QQI AWARD

Who Should Attend?

This course is of interest to...

Those currently employed in a private nursing home, healthcare agency, or any private healthcare organisation.

Before You Apply

Participants must be proficient in the English language.

To complete the mandatory Work Practice module, it is essential that you are currently working as a Healthcare Assistant.

Throughout the course, you will need access to a modern laptop or desktop computer with a strong internet connection, camera, and microphone. A smartphone and/or tablet are not sufficient.



Contact Us

If you have any questions about this programme, you can reach our dedicated QQI courses team at ggicourses@lhpskillnet.ie.

Quick Facts

Delivery Mode

Online

Duration

6-7 months

Fee for 8 Modules

€750 for Members
€1,550 for Non-Members

Award

Healthcare Support QQI
Award (Major) Level 5
(5M4339)

Modules can be booked individually. Eligible learners can choose to book the Care Skills & Care of the Older Person modules for €200 (members only). Further modules towards the Major Award can be booked for €100 each.

Care Skills & Care of the Older Person

€200 for Members

Course Duration: 6 Weeks

Apply on our Website

What Is Included?

Our programme consists of 8 component modules covering essential areas. Each module has a credit value of 15. The total credit value required for the certificate is 120.

QQI CODE	MODULE TITLE
5N0690	Communications
5N1794	Safety & Health at Work
5N0758	Care Support
5N2770	Care Skills
5N2706	Care of the Older Person
5N3769	Palliative Care Support
5N3734	Infection Prevention & Control
5N1433	Work Practice

Participants will be assessed in each module.

This comprehensive course provides a solid foundation
in Healthcare Support.

Aim & Purpose

According to the independent regulatory body HIQA, all staff employed by nursing homes or home-care organisations "must have the necessary skills, appropriate to their role, to provide care and support to residents and to coordinate care effectively with other organisations and professionals."

The Certificate in Healthcare Support (QQI Level 5, Major Award) has become the industry-standard qualification for anyone wishing to work as a Healthcare Assistant in the Republic of Ireland. This qualification can only be conferred upon a student who has completed 8 modules from a list specified by the national awards body Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

Delivery Mode

The programme is delivered online through live, interactive sessions held once a week, always at the same time, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., spanning a period of 6 to 7 months. Full attendance on all class days is mandatory, and each module typically lasts for an average of 4 weeks.

Certification

Learners who successfully complete the programme will be awarded the following certificate from QQI: Healthcare Support QQI Award (Major) Level 5 (5M4339).

Fees

The fee for this programme is €750 for LHP Skillnet Member Companies. Non-members pay the full amount of €1,550. If you have already completed the Care Skills and Care of the Older Person modules and aim to finish the remaining six modules to obtain the full Major Award, the subsidized cost for LHP Skillnet Members is €600 per learner.

Assessment

Learners will be assessed in each module of the programme. Assessment takes the form of assignments, skills demonstrations, portfolios, examinations, learner records and projects. For more details, see below module breakdown.

Module Breakdown

This is a brief summary of what is covered by each module. For more detail, please find the full QQI specifications online under: <https://bit.ly/chs-specs>.

Communications: This module covers various aspects of communication, including legal considerations, effective use of non-verbal and verbal skills, critical reading and writing, research techniques, and technology choices in both personal and work contexts. Assessment: Portfolio/Collection of Work (50%), Skills Demonstration (50%)

Safety and Health at Work: Workplace health and safety are covered comprehensively, including legal obligations, safety authorities, communication, safety statements, accident prevention, fire safety, equipment hazards, protective gear, hazardous materials, infection control, risk factors assessment, safety signs, and promoting healthy practices. Assessment: Assignment (60%), Examination - Theory (40%)

Care Support: Roles, responsibilities, and entitlements of care workers, their place within healthcare teams, planning and providing quality care, tailoring care to individual clients, personal growth and development strategies, self-reflection on effectiveness, and managing interpersonal dynamics in care work. Assessment: Assignment (30%), Learner Record (70%)

Care Skills: Identifying healthcare recipients, assessing diverse needs, hygiene, pressure sore prevention, equipment care, assisting daily activities, promoting client well-being, safety procedures, equipment usage, reporting changes in condition, and documentation in healthcare settings. Assessment: Assignment (40%), Skills Demonstration (60%)

Care of the Older Person: Discussions on various aspects of aging, including healthy aging, demographic trends, physiological and psychological processes, societal impacts, and attitudes. We examine the role of

Module Breakdown (continued)

healthcare assistants, cultural influences, the diverse needs of older individuals, care for those with mental illness, dementia, and chronic conditions, as well as end-of-life care. Effective communication, adapting care for impairments, and promoting empowerment, dignity, and health promotion are key components. Assessment: Skills Demonstration (60%), Project (40%)

Palliative Care Support: This module covers the philosophy and principles of palliative care, the structure of palliative care services, the support worker's role in promoting key issues like quality of life and dignity, attitudes towards death, effective communication strategies, person-centred end-of-life care, handling confusion in the last days, and working sensitively with the dying person and their loved ones. Assessment: Learner Record (70%), Assignment (30%)

Infection Prevention and Control: Focus on infection control principles, emphasizing the significance of standard precautions and maintaining a safe healthcare environment. The module covers several types of micro-organisms, infection transmission modes, predisposing factors to healthcare-acquired infections, the role of local infection control teams, decontamination, blood-borne virus prevention, antibiotic use, hand hygiene, terminal cleaning procedures, and the management of blood and body fluid incidents. Assessment: Skills Demonstration (40%), Learner Record (20%), Examination - Theory (40%)

Work Practice: Learn to understand the unique characteristics of your workplace, such as its status, size, structure, aims, and management practices. Current issues affecting the workplace as well as relevant legislation and regulations, internal and external policies, and procedures are discussed. During a two-month work placement, you'll undertake vocationally specific tasks, apply knowledge to new situations, work independently, contribute positively as a team member, maintain professionalism and safety, and reflect on personal performance and learning opportunities within your vocational field and organisation. Assessment: Portfolio/Collection of Work (40%), Learner Record (60%)

Transfer & Progression

"Transfer" refers to the process by which learners may move between equivalent programmes of education. "Progression" refers to the process by which learners may advance from one programme of education to a higher-level programme of education.

We facilitate learners who wish transfer to other programmes/providers and progress to programmes leading to awards at higher levels of the NFQ. Graduates of our programmes have the option of transferring or progressing to other providers or to further or higher education institutes that offer programmes leading to awards on the NFQ in related areas. We facilitate and support learners who are applying for entry to other programmes by providing academic references or a provisional statement of results/predicted results for the purposes of satisfying entry or interview requirements.

Learners are permitted to transfer within our QQI programmes, if possible. Learners are encouraged to transfer to a similar cohort in order to retain a continuous learning environment.

Programmes are structured such that the modules Communications and Safety and Health at Work are completed first. These modules can be used to count towards the completion of many non-healthcare QQI Level 5 Major Awards, should the learner exit the programme early.

We facilitate learners enrolled on a partly funded Certificate in Healthcare Support programme to engage with the Major Award in Healthcare Support (QQI Level 5) in a modular fashion. The employed learner is permitted to attend as many or as few component modules as they choose per Major Award programme, until they have completed the requisite number.

English Language Requirement For Entry

Competence in written and spoken English is an entry requirement for our programmes. The specific level required is B2 (Upper Intermediate) on the Common European Framework Reference (CEFR). Applicants whose first language is not English may be required to demonstrate proficiency in English to an appropriate level.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is a process to evaluate the skills and knowledge a person has gained through previous training. An RPL applicant must be able to demonstrate learning based on what they achieved through another programme of study and must submit evidence with their application to verify this. For example, if you have already completed a minor award such as communication, care of the older person or care skills and you can provide your QQI Certificate as evidence, you can receive an exemption for these modules. Please contact us if you have any questions or to find out if RPL is applicable in your case.