

Qualification Guide

OCNLR Level 5 Award in Palliative Care Awareness

OCN London Qualification Guide

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Qualification No: 603/2306/1

OCN London aims to support learning and widening opportunities by recognising achievement through credit-based courses and qualifications, promoting high standards of excellence and inclusiveness. We are proud of our long-term role and unique history in providing innovative learning solutions for a wide range of learners and particularly those who have not previously benefitted from education.

At the heart of what OCN London offers is:

- a commitment to inclusive credit-based learning;
- the creative use of credit with responsive, demand-led qualification development;
- high quality service and support;
- respect for and encouragement of diversity – in learners and learning approaches, partners and settings;
- the development of people, capacity and resources that will ensure effective business partnerships.

To navigate within this Qualification Guide

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General Information

This qualification guide contains details of everything you need to know about the **OCNLR Level 5 Award in Palliative Care Awareness**. It makes reference to the curriculum areas covered and identifies the learners for whom the qualification has been developed. The guide also covers important aspects of assessment and moderation that are particular to the qualification. The guide should be used by all involved in the delivery and assessment of the qualification. The Account Manager for your Centre will provide support and advice on how to seek approval to offer the qualification.

If you are not yet an OCN London Approved Centre but wish to use this qualification, then please contact us on enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk for details of the Centre Approval application process.

Qualification Overview

The **OCNLR Level 5 Award in Palliative Care Awareness** has been developed to provide healthcare professionals with an awareness of palliative care as part of their continuing professional development.

Palliative care, as defined by the World Health Organisation, is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual. Palliative care:

- provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms;
- affirms life and regards dying as a normal process;
- intends neither to hasten or postpone death;
- integrates the psychological and spiritual aspects of patient care;
- offers a support system to help patients live as actively as possible until death;
- offers a support system to help the family cope during the patients illness and in their own bereavement;
- uses a team approach to address the needs of patients and their families, including bereavement counselling, if indicated;
- will enhance quality of life, and may also positively influence the course of illness;
- is applicable early in the course of illness, in conjunction with other therapies that are intended to prolong life, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and includes those investigations needed to better understand and manage distressing clinical complications.

Qualification details

The **OCNLR Level 5 Award in Palliative Care Awareness** is available at Level 5 only.

Level 5

- Qualification Number: 603/2306/1
- Qualification credit value: 8
- Operational start date: 1st September 2017
- Review date: 31/07/2031
- Total Qualification Time (TQT): 85 hours
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH): 12
- Assessment requirements: internally assessed, internally and externally moderated

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of **OCNLR Level 5 Award in Palliative Care Awareness** is to provide continuing professional development for healthcare professionals who manage, or wish to manage, palliative care for individuals in healthcare settings.

This qualification has been developed in partnership with North London Hospice and Barnet and Southgate College.

Who the qualification is for

The **OCNLR Level 5 Award in Palliative Care Awareness Care** is suitable for qualified or experienced nurses and practitioners, who wish to gain a greater awareness of palliative care theory and practice.

Entry guidance

This qualification is suitable for learners aged 18+. To undertake this qualification, learners must be experienced nurses or practitioners holding current, relevant qualifications.

Additional information

This qualification maps to the **Common Core Principles** framework published by Skills for Health and Skills for Care. The underpinning values and knowledge in the framework are designed to be used as a guide to managers and workers, alongside occupation-specific guidance (not described in the Common Core Principles document), when supporting someone who is dying.

Progression and related qualifications

This qualification provides continuing professional development for nurses and practitioners. On completion of the qualification, learners will have a greater awareness of the theory and practice of palliative care and be able to apply this in a variety of healthcare settings.

Guidance on delivering this qualification

At least one person in the delivery team must have, as a minimum, a degree in palliative care (or equivalent). Please contact OCN London for decisions on particular qualifications if in doubt.

Structure of the qualification

Rules of combination for achievement

To achieve the **OCNLR Level 5 Award in Palliative Care Awareness** learners must complete 8 credits from the two mandatory units.

Qualification units

Ofqual Unit Reference Number Mandatory	OCNLR Unit Code	Unit Title	Level	Credit Value	GLH
J/616/2399	HF8/5/LQ/001	Understanding the Theoretical Concepts of Palliative Care	5	4	6
M/616/2400	HF8/5/LQ/002	Understanding the Use of Palliative Care in Symptom Management	5	4	6

Assessment and Moderation

Assessment process

The assessment process for this qualification is as follows:

- The learners are assessed through activities that are internally set by tutor assessors;
- The activities must be designed to enable learners to meet the assessment criteria of the unit;
- Learners' portfolios of assessed evidence must be internally moderated at the Centre;
- The portfolios of assessed evidence will be externally moderated by an OCN London External Moderator.

There is no additional external assessment for this qualification.

Devising assessments

Each unit has a supplementary page with information on the types of assessment activities that can (indicated as 'Optional' or 'O') and/or must (indicated as 'Prescribed' or 'P') be used to assess learners against the unit. Tutor assessors must always refer to this page before devising assessment tasks.

Centre devised assessments should be scrutinised by the Internal Moderator before use to ensure that they are fit for purpose. Centre devised assessments will be scrutinised by the External Moderator to ensure reliability and validity of assessment.

Marking assessment activities

Each activity must be marked against the identified assessment criteria in the unit and judged to be either achieved or not achieved.

Assessors need to ensure that the work in a learner's portfolio is:

- Authentic – it is the result of the learner's own performance or activity;
- Sufficient – enabling the assessor to make a consistent and reliable judgement;
- Adequate – appropriate to the level.

Where a series of activities are set, learners must demonstrate the achievement of the required standard identified in the assessment criteria in all activities. All of the assessment criteria in a unit must be met before the unit is deemed achieved.

The unit achievement is not graded. Units are either achieved or not achieved.

Standardisation

Standardisation is a process that promotes consistency in the understanding and application of standards in relation to assessment. It:

- compares assessment judgements from different tutor/assessors;
- promotes consistent judgements by different tutor/assessors;
- identifies good practice in assessment;
- promotes the sharing of good practice in assessment between centre staff.

Standardisation events should be held periodically within centres to ensure consistent and effective assessment practice. Standardisation events may also be held by OCN London and it is a requirement that each Centre offering units from this qualification must contribute assessment materials and learners' evidence for standardisation, if requested.

OCN London will notify Centres of the required sample for standardisation purposes and assessment materials, learners' evidence and tutor feedback may be collected by External Moderators.

Learners with particular requirements

If learners have particular requirements the Centre should refer to the 'Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure' which can be found on our website at: [Access to Fair Assessment Policy and Procedure](#) and gives clear guidance on the reasonable adjustments and arrangements that can be made to take account of disability or learning difficulty, without compromising the achievement of the assessment criteria.

Requirements for tutor/assessors

Assessors of the qualification are expected to have, as a minimum, a degree in palliative care or equivalent. (Contact OCN London for decisions on particular qualifications if in doubt.)

To be sufficiently competent

In addition to being qualified to make assessment decisions, each assessor must be capable of carrying out the full requirements within the competency of the units they are assessing. This competence should be maintained annually through clearly demonstrable continuing learning and professional development.

Expert witnesses can be used where they have suitable expertise for specialist areas. The use of expert witnesses should be determined and agreed by the assessor.

To be sufficiently knowledgeable

Each assessor should possess relevant knowledge and understanding of the subject and so be able to make robust and reliable assessment decisions in relation to the subject.



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