

**SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY (SAQA)**

In accordance with Regulation 24(c) of the National Standards Bodies Regulations of 28 March 1998, the Standards Generating Body (SGB) for

**Integrated Health Professions**

registered by Organising Field 09 – Health Sciences and Social Services, publishes the following Qualification and Unit Standards for public comment.

This notice contains the titles, fields, sub-fields, NQF levels, credits, and purpose of the Qualification and Unit Standards. The full Qualification and Unit Standards can be accessed via the SAQA web-site at [www.saga.org.za](http://www.saga.org.za). Copies may also be obtained from the Directorate of Standards Setting and Development at the SAQA offices, SAQA House, 1067 Arcadia Street, Hatfield, Pretoria.

Comment on the Qualification and Unit Standards should reach SAQA at the address below and **no later than 11 March 2009**. All correspondence should be marked **Standards Setting – SGB for Integrated Health Professions** and addressed to

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**ACTING DIRECTOR: STANDARDS SETTING AND DEVELOPMENT**



## SOUTH AFRICAN QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY

**QUALIFICATION:****National Diploma: Allied Health Therapies**

| SAQA QUAL ID                      |   | QUALIFICATION TITLE                         |                         |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| 65609                             |   | National Diploma: Allied Health Therapies   |                         |
| ORIGINATOR                        |   | PROVIDER                                    |                         |
| SGB Integrated Health Professions |   |   |                         |
| QUALIFICATION TYPE                | FIELD                                   | SUBFIELD                                    |                         |
| National Diploma                  | 9 - Health Sciences and Social Services | Promotive Health and Developmental Services |                         |
| ABET BAND                         | MINIMUM CREDITS                         | NQF LEVEL                                   | QUAL CLASS              |
| Undefined                         | 268                                     | Level 5                                     | Regular-Unit Stds Based |

*This qualification does not replace any other qualification and is not replaced by another qualification.*

**PURPOSE AND RATIONALE OF THE QUALIFICATION****Purpose:**

This Qualification is for learners who wish to enter the fields of Allied Health Practice, specifically in one of the modalities of Therapeutic Aromatherapy, Therapeutic Reflexology or Therapeutic Massage (ARM) as a potential career, and have little or no previous exposure to any of the allied health professions. The Qualification will also be valuable for those who may have been practising within the field, but without formal qualifications. It will enable learners to acquire the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to practise ethically as independent practitioners in field of choice.

Although it is indicated that this Qualification falls into the sub-field 'Promotive Health and Developmental Services' it is also applicable in the other sub-fields of Preventive Health, Curative Health and Rehabilitative Health. Therapeutic Aromatherapy, Therapeutic Reflexology or Therapeutic Massage are all able to be used to meet the preventive, palliative, rehabilitative or maintenance needs of the patient, thus cutting across all the sub-fields.

On completion of this Qualification and depending on area of specialisation selected, successful learners will be able to:

- > Operate effectively in a small business environment.
- > Minimise health and safety risks in a therapeutic environment.
- > Apply knowledge of normal anatomy and biophysical functioning of the human body to determine the presence of disease states in a patient.
- > Manage patients in a variety of settings.
- > Conduct basic research.
- > Conduct a holistic assessment of a patient applicable to the chosen therapeutic modality, select the method or means of intervention and explain the benefits of the chosen intervention.
- > Deliver a therapeutic treatment to the patient in the chosen modality.

Practitioners will generally carry out their roles within the context of current legislation, quality assurance policies, procedures and processes of the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA) and any other relevant ETQA.

**Rationale:**

The creation of self-employment opportunities is a priority area within the South African context and is supported by legislation, national policies and strategies. In order to meet the Allied Health Sector requirements within the context of a quality assured environment and processes, it is important to be able to identify and recognise competent health practitioners, proficient in one or more of the modalities of therapeutic aromatherapy, therapeutic reflexology and therapeutic massage therapy (ARM).

This Qualification serves as a means for providing recognition to practitioners entering the allied health field, thus making it possible for them to increase their employment prospects and, at the same time, providing a means whereby organisations can appoint practitioners in line with proven competencies.

This Qualification makes provision for core skills and knowledge for application in integrated allied health practices in general, but also allows for specialisation in one of three specialist professional roles, viz.:

- > Therapeutic Aromatherapy.
- > Therapeutic Reflexology.
- > Therapeutic Massage.

On successfully completing this Qualification, the learner should be eligible for registration as a practitioner with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA). This affords career opportunities within the ambit of associated allied health professions according to legal and ethical requirements stipulated by the AHPCSA. The qualification will enable practitioners to deliver a therapeutic aromatherapy, therapeutic reflexology or therapeutic massage.

**RECOGNIZE PREVIOUS LEARNING?**

Y

**LEARNING ASSUMED IN PLACE**

- > Grade 12 or recognized equivalent.
- > Computer Literacy at NQF Level 3.

**Recognition of Prior Learning:**

This qualification can be achieved wholly or in part through recognition of prior learning, in terms of the defined exit level outcomes and/or individual unit standards and in agreement with the provider and the relevant ETQA. Evidence can be presented in various ways, including SAQA-verified international and/or previous local qualifications and/or certified reports, testimonials mentioning functions performed, work records, portfolios and performance records.

**QUALIFICATION RULES**

In order to be credited with this qualification, learners are required to achieve the following:

**Fundamental component:**

- > All Unit Standards in the Fundamental component - totalling 60 credits - are compulsory, regardless of area of specialisation.

**Core component:**

- > All Unit Standards in the Core component - totalling 118 credits - are compulsory, regardless of area of specialisation.

Elective component:

- > Unit Standards totalling a minimum of 90 credits are required to complete the Diploma.
- > Learners may choose from three different elective specialisation options.
- > Each area of specialisation carries a total of 90 credits.
- > Exit Level Outcomes 6 and 7 apply to Therapeutic Aromatherapy.
- > Exit Level Outcomes 8 and 9 apply to Therapeutic Reflexology.
- > Exit Level Outcomes 10 and 11 apply to Therapeutic Massage.

#### **EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES**

1. Operate effectively in a small business environment.
2. Minimise health and safety risks in a therapeutic environment.
3. Apply knowledge of normal anatomy and biophysical functioning of the human body to determine the presence of disease states in a patient.
4. Manage patients in a variety of settings.
5. Conduct basic research.
6. Assess a patient for Therapeutic Aromatherapy.
7. Deliver Therapeutic Aromatherapy treatment to a patient.
8. Assess a patient for Therapeutic Reflexology.
9. Deliver Therapeutic Reflexology treatment to a patient.
10. Assess a patient for Therapeutic Massage.
11. Deliver Therapeutic Massage treatment to a patient.

Critical Cross-Field Outcomes:

This qualification addresses the following Critical Cross-Field Outcomes, as detailed in the associated unit standards:

- > Identifying and solving problems are demonstrated in minimising health and safety risks and providing a therapeutic environment for the patients.
- > Working effectively with others as a member of a team, group, organisation or community is demonstrated in the effective operation of a small business and building a patient base.
- > Organising and managing oneself and one's activities responsibly and effectively are demonstrated in the successful management of a small business.
- > Collecting, analysing, organising and critically evaluating information is demonstrated in the management of patients and continuous record keeping.
- > Communicating effectively using visual, mathematical and/or language skills in oral and/or written modes is demonstrated throughout all the activities associated with the successful provision of treatments and operating a business.
- > Using science and technology effectively and critically, showing responsibility towards the environment and health of others is demonstrated in the tools used in the business and during treatments.
- > Demonstrating an understanding of the world as a set of interrelated systems by recognising that problem-solving contexts do not exist in isolation are demonstrated in the successful management of patients and the referral of patients where necessary.

**ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

## Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 1:

- 1.1 Strategic, financial and control aspects of a small business enterprise are explained in terms of business planning.
- 1.2 Legal and ethical requirements of business practice in a South African context are described and applied in terms of business operations.
- 1.3 Managerial and administrative functions are performed in accordance with best business practice.

## Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 2:

- 2.1 Compliance with the requirements of the relevant, current occupational health and safety legislation, and the rights and responsibilities of individuals as outlined in the Constitution of South Africa are applied at all times.
- 2.2 All actions carried out during therapeutic interactions clearly demonstrate the promotion of patient and own health and safety.
- 2.3 Information regarding infectious diseases and especially HIV/AIDS is communicated to patient and/or community in a manner that promotes good health practice and prevents the spread of disease.

## Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 3:

- 3.1 The normal structure of tissues, organs and organ systems of the human body are described and/or explained.
- 3.2 The normal biophysics related to all human body systems are explained.
- 3.3 Changes that occur in the systems of the human body in specific disease states are described.

## Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 4:

- 4.1 Patients are managed in a manner consistent with the patient's rights, and statutory requirements of the field.
- 4.2 Patients are supplied with information throughout the therapeutic interactions to provide them with the tools to make independent and informed lifestyle improvement decisions.
- 4.3 Cultural sensitivity is displayed throughout all the stages of intervention.

## Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 5:

- 5.1 A research assignment is planned that is relevant to the field of study.
- 5.2 A literature review, relevant to the planned research subject, is carried out.
- 5.3 A basic research design is constructed and relevant data is gathered and organised.
- 5.4 Research findings are compiled and presented in a written research report.

## Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 6:

- 6.1 A holistic assessment of the patient is carried out by means of lifestyle and medical histories and own observation of the patient.
- 6.2 A treatment plan is compiled that indicates the application of the pharmacological and pharmacokinetic effects of the chemical constituents of essential oils and carrier oils.
- 6.3 The selected treatments for both a normal and a diseased body are explained in terms of the expected benefits and possible adverse reactions to the treatment.

## Associated Assessment Criteria for Exit Level Outcome 7: