

National Qualifications Framework - New Edexcel Level 3 NVQ in Health pathways

Automatic Approval Process and Frequently Asked Questions

Part One - AUTOMATIC APPROVAL PROCESS - KEY INFORMATION

What are the key changes to the Level 3 NVQ in Health?

Skills for Health have introduced two new pathways to the Level 3 NVQ in Health. The two pathways are:

- Endoscopy Support
- Pathology Support.

Centres are advised to consult the *Sector Guidance for Centres: Issue 4*, for the Level 3 NVQ in Health, which highlights all the changes with sidelines, for further details. This document is available from the Edexcel website at:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/nvq/health/Pages/default.aspx>

Please note that the choice of work effectiveness units that can be undertaken as part of the pathology pathway, differ to those that can be undertaken for some of the other Level 3 NVQ in Health pathways.

Centres interested in offering the two pathways in endoscopy and pathology support, are advised to familiarise themselves with the NVQ structures and evidence requirements for these pathways. This information can be accessed in the Sector Guidance for Centres: Issue 4, for the Level 3 NVQ in Health (detailed above).

The introduction of the new pathways (and associated units) for the Level 3 NVQ in Health, also means that candidates undertaking the following pathways (at Level 3): Advanced Blood Donor Support; Allied Health Profession Support (General, Dietetics, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, Radiotherapy, Clinical Imaging, Speech and Language Therapy,); General Healthcare Support; Clinical Healthcare Skills; Maternity/Paediatric Support; Newborn Hearing Screening; Renal Support can choose to undertake units from the new pathways, as long as it is not a forbidden combination and is inline with the NVQ structure for that pathway.

The following are the new NVQ pathway titles and Q numbers:

Q5000428 - Edexcel Level 3 NVQ in Health (Endoscopy Support)

Q5000429 - Edexcel Level 3 NVQ in Health (Pathology Support)

The Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN) for both these pathways is 100/4986/1

If you meet the following criteria for any of the existing Edexcel Level 3 NVQ in Health pathways, you are entitled to automatic approval for both new pathways.

Alternatively, if you meet the following criteria for the Edexcel Level 2 NVQ in Clinical Laboratory Support (Q5000057), you are entitled to automatic approval for the Pathology Support pathway.

Criteria for Automatic Approval:

- Centres approved within the previous 6 months for an existing Level 3 Health NVQ pathway will receive Automatic Approval for the new NVQ pathways (as they have recently been through the rigorous approval process).
- Centres approved over 6 months ago for the existing Level 3 Health NVQ pathways, will receive Automatic Approval for the new NVQ pathways, if they fulfil both the following eligibility requirements:
 - having registered candidates on the existing NVQ pathways within the last two years
 - having received a sanction level 2 or lower reported on the e-QRF for the existing NVQ pathway within the last year.

How do I obtain a copy of my centre's approved qualification structure?

To obtain a copy of the qualification structure you will need to access your 'programme definitions' through your Edexcel Online account and select the NVQ tab,

- Go to Qualifications on the left hand side
- Select Reports where you will be asked to select programme definitions.
- Select the programmes from the 'Currently Approved Award Codes' option and submit.

The programme definitions are sent to your Edexcel Online mailbox. You can access this by clicking on "mailbox" at the top of the Edexcel Online screen. Please ensure that copies of the programme definitions are distributed to all relevant personnel, as they contain important administrative and course delivery information.

If my centre does not meet the automatic approval criteria outlined on the previous page, what do I need to do to seek approval?

If your centre does not meet the criteria outlined above or you wish to apply for an NVQ title where there was no previous provision, a member of the relevant Edexcel regional team can support and assist your centre in the completion of the approvals application process

Please contact your Regional Office to put you in contact with an appropriate member of the Edexcel regional team.

Contact details of your Edexcel Regional Office can be found in the Contact Section of the Edexcel Information Manual.

You will need to complete and return a NVQ QA form to BTEC Approvals. If you have any queries relating to this process, please email approvals@edexcel.com

The NVQ QA form and guidance can be found on the Edexcel website - [NVQ Qualification Approval \(NVQ QA\)](#)

If my centre has been given automatic approval to offer the new NVQ pathways, but does not wish to have approval to offer it, what do I need to do to withdraw approval?

If your centre does not wish to offer the new NVQ pathway for which your centre has been given automatic approval and would like approval to be withdrawn, please write to:

Quality Standards Team
One90 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7BH

Requests for further advice and queries about approval may be directed to:
approvals@edexcel.com

Part Two - GENERAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will this new qualification access funding?

These new Edexcel NVQ pathways will be listed on the current DCSF Funding Lists (Section 96 and 97 as appropriate) and subsequent DCSF update circulars.

It is appreciated that centres in Wales and Northern Ireland operate under different funding arrangements; please contact your Edexcel Regional Office if you have particular queries (see below).

For Centres in Wales:

Cardiff Regional Office
Unit C
Fairway House
Links Business Park
St Mellons
Cardiff
CF3 OLT

For Centres in Northern Ireland:

Bristol Regional Office
Cribbs Business Centre
Hollywood Lane
Cribbs Causeway
Bristol
BS10 7TW

Tel: 0292 079 4865
Fax: 0292 036 2830

Tel: 0117 950 1908
Fax: 0117 950 1115

Where can we obtain copies of the DfES funding listings?

For funding information please see the LSC Learning Aims Database (<http://providers.lsc.gov.uk/lad/default.asp>).

Why is there a change in qualification coding?

The regulator has changed the way in which they code NVQs accredited to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). Instead of the previous system of allocating Q numbers for each NVQ they now allocate a Qualification Accreditation Number (QAN), which consists of an eight figure number. In addition, individual units are no longer allocated a U number, but instead start with a letter and then seven digits.

The new style of coding will run alongside the old, which remains valid in relation to existing NVQ Qualifications and NVQ units that have previously been allocated Q and U numbers.

Edexcel systems will continue to use Q numbers for NVQ approvals and registrations. For qualifications and units allocated QAN codes we will generate unique Q and U numbers, beginning with 'Q5' and 'U5' respectively, these Edexcel codes should be used when completing all Edexcel documentation.

The Edexcel generated codes will not appear on certificates; these will be linked to the NQF QAN codes, which will appear on all certification. All other forms from other bodies relating to NVQs (e.g. for funding) should be completed using the NQF QAN codes.

The qualification accreditation number needed to apply for funding is stated below the new titles on page 1 of this document.

When can we register candidates on the new Edexcel NVQ pathways?

You may register candidates from 1 July 2009 onwards, provided that you have either:

- Received an automatic approval letter
- Received a letter of approval from Edexcel following a full application using the NVQ QA Application Form.

Information about registration arrangements are given in the Edexcel Information Manual which is on the Edexcel website at [Edexcel Information Manual](#)

Can I advertise and market the new pathways?

Yes, if you have received an automatic approval letter or if you have received your approval letter following submission of the NVQ QA Application Form. If you have applied via the NVQ QA but are still awaiting your formal Approval Letter, then any marketing must make it clear that you are awaiting approval from Edexcel. Candidates must be made aware of the exact, correct title of the qualification they are working towards.

What support materials will be available?

The following products will be available.

Code	Title	Media	When available
N/A	<i>Sector Guidance for Centres: Issue 4 – Level 3 NVQ in Health</i>	Document on website	August 2009

Please note that there are no subject-specific candidate logbooks for these two new pathways. However, candidates are advised to consult the *General Guidance to Candidates (Issue 3)* for further details on the compilation of logbooks and example forms. This can be accessed via the Edexcel website at: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/nvq/Pages/key-docs.aspx>

Please note that the *Sector Guidance for Centres (Issue 4)* supersedes all previous issues of the document, including an incorrect version placed on the Edexcel website, Issue 2 (July 2009).

Part Three - NVQ SPECIFIC FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ISSUES

Who are these new pathways for?

These new pathways are for candidates who are specialising in endoscopy or pathology support, respectively.

Is simulation allowed in these two new pathways?

Please note that simulation is not allowed for any of the new units in the two new pathways, except for Unit GEN77: Perform first line calibration on clinical equipment to ensure it is fit for use.