

Title	Explain the anatomy and physiology of the ear; and the causes, types, effects, and medical management of hearing loss		
Level	6	Credits	14

Purpose	People credited with this standard are able to: explain the anatomy and physiology of the ear and the types and causes of hearing loss; describe the psychological and psychosocial effects of hearing loss; and demonstrate knowledge of the medical management of hearing loss.
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Classification	Health, Disability, and Aged Support > Hearing Therapy
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

Definition

Organisational standards refer to the policies, procedures and practices which reflect an organisation's service philosophy and the current and relevant ethical, legislative regulatory and contractual requirements to which the setting or role is subject.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Explain the anatomy and physiology of the ear.

Range pinna, external auditory meatus, tympanic membrane, mastoid bone, stapes, malleus, incus, eustachian tube, middle ear cavity, round window, oval window, cochlea, basilar membrane, endolymph, perilymph, scala vestibuli, scala tympani, organ of corti, tectorial membrane, cochlear duct, inner hair cells, outer hair cells, auditory nerve, cochlear nucleus, brain stem, auditory cortex, semi-circular canals.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 The anatomy and physiology of the ear are explained in terms of the function of the parts of the ear.
- 1.2 The anatomy and physiology of the ear are explained in terms of the linkage of the parts of the ear to the hearing process.

Outcome 2

Explain the types and causes of hearing loss.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 The auditory system is explained in terms of where in the system hearing loss occurs.
- Range conductive, sensori-neural, mixed, central.
- 2.2 Possible causes of hearing loss are explained.
- Range congenital, acquired;
evidence of two congenital and two acquired causes is required.
- 2.3 The degrees of hearing loss are explained.
- Range slight, mild, moderate, severe, profound.

Outcome 3

Describe the psychological and psychosocial effects of hearing loss.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Psychological effects of hearing loss are identified and described in terms of their impact.
- Range may include but is not limited to – anxiety, depression, anger, denial, frustration, stress, defensiveness, aggression, isolation, withdrawal, paranoia, dependency;
evidence of four impacts is required.
- 3.2 Psychosocial effects of hearing loss are identified and described in terms of their impact.
- Range may include but is not limited to – socio-economic, vocational, educational, social, recreational;
evidence of three impacts is required.

Outcome 4

Demonstrate knowledge of the medical management of hearing loss.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 The roles of health professionals involved in the medical management of hearing loss are explained.

Range general practitioner, otorhinolaryngologist, audiologist, audiometrist, ear nurse specialist, hearing therapist, rehabilitationist.

- 4.2 Medical interventions in the management of hearing loss are explained in accordance with organisational standards.

Range may include but is not limited to – stapedectomy, mastoidectomy, cochlear implant, bone anchored hearing aid, auditory brain stem implant, myringoplasty, ossiculoplasty, grommets; evidence of three interventions is required.

- 4.3 Referral pathways for the medical assessment of presenting symptoms that may require management of hearing loss are described in accordance with organisational standards.

Range symptoms may include but are not limited to those relating to the following conditions and/or diseases – acoustic neuroma, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, stroke, Meniere's disease, 'aural fullness', high blood pressure, vertigo, hyperacusis, cholesteatoma, tympanic perforations, otitis externa, otitis media; referral pathways relating to four conditions and/or diseases are required.

Planned review date	31 December 2029
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	20 April 2017	31 December 2025
Review	2	26 September 2024	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0024
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Toitū te Waiora Community, Health, Education and Social Services Workforce Development Council info@toitutewaiora.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.