# Adaptation addendum

Qualification reference number(s)	Qualification title(s)		
600/6216/2	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Healthcare Support Services		
600/6218/6	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Healthcare Support Services		
600/6215/0	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Clinical Healthcare Support		
603/2414/4	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Healthcare Support		
603/3810/6	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma for Assistant Practitioners in Healthcare		
501/1258/2	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) for England		
501/1258/2/DEM	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) for England (Dementia)		
501/1258/2/LD	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Adults) for England (Learning Disability)		
603/2611/6	NCFE CACHE Level 2 Diploma in Care		
603/2618/9	NCFE CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Adult Care		
603/2614/1	NCFE CACHE Level 4 Diploma in Adult Care		
601/5672/7	NCFE CACHE Level 4 Diploma in Adult Care (England)		
603/2422/3	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership and Management for Adult Care		
601/4312/5/AAP	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (Adults' Advanced Practice)		
601/4312/5/AM	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (Adults' Management)		
601/4312/5/ARM	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (Adults' Residential Management)		
601/4312/5/CYPAP	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (Children and Young People's Advanced Practice)		
601/4312/5/CYPM	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (Children and Young People's Management)		
601/4312/5/CYPRM	NCFE CACHE Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (England) (Children and Young People's Residential Management)		

Adaptations			
Assessment	Current approach	Adaptation	
Internal assessment: skills and knowledge	Assessed through portfolio of evidence.  Guidance in our qualification specifications sets out assessment criteria which must be met, and examples of the type of evidence which may be used to meet those criteria.  It is already the case that other forms of evidence (i.e. not specifically listed in our guidance) may be used if they meet assessment criteria and can be internally and externally quality assured.	All relevant qualification content must still be delivered and assessment criteria met.  We believe that the flexibilities which centres already have with respect to the types of evidence they may use to meet assessment criteria are sufficient to mitigate Covid-related risks.  We would encourage centres to consider how they might use alternative and / or digital solutions to gather and store evidence including, for example:  centre-set short response or multi-choice tests professional discussion recordings annotated learning plans photos and videos.  You can find further advice and guidance on the preparation of portfolios of evidence here.	
Observation of competence via workplace or mandatory work placement; essential e.g. due to licence to practice	A number of our qualifications include mandated work placement components, e.g. due to licence to practice requirements for a given occupation, or to reflect the clear expectations of relevant industry sector partner organisations.	All relevant qualification content must still be delivered and assessment criteria met.  Adaptations should be applied in line with the joint Awarding Organisation's assessment mitigation centre guidance communication in relation to Covid-19 disruption, 2020-21 for Health and Social Care and Childcare/Early years.	

requirements in a given		
occupational area		

Many of these qualifications do currently require that students complete a minimum number of placement hours – often to meet those externally set requirements.

The amount and type of assessment included in work placements varies between qualifications – but will typically be a combination of internal skills and knowledge assessment activity.

Wherever we can do so without compromising student progression or wider regulatory requirements, we will look to:

- remove the requirement that students complete a minimum number of placement hours, permitting centres flexibility to support students' progress outside of the work placement provided they demonstrate competence
- require that centres do still record placement hours in the manner they otherwise would for the relevant qualification
- encourage centres to use available flexibilities to capture evidence for students' portfolios or from observations
- work with employers to plan for placements. Centres to have a strategy in place for reducing the risk and following local protocols
- consider block placements rather than weekly especially for second year students
- encourage delivery staff to create a bubble by using a single assessor/teacher/tutor for each setting rather than by student, which limits the risk and allows assessors/teachers/tutors to see more students during visit.

#### **Observations**

Competence based assessment requirements must include direct observation of performance of the student as the main source of evidence. Where it is deemed safe and

appropriate following a robust COVID-19 risk assessment process, direct observation of performance remains the preferred method of assessment.

Where it is not safe to gain direct observation of performance, the following approaches should be considered. A combination can be used to create a robust triangulation of performance-based evidence for the student.

### **Expert Witness Testimony (EWT)**

The use of an expert witness is permitted to undertake and provide observations of performance of the student if an observation by a qualified assessor cannot be completed.

An expert witness must:

- have a working knowledge of the units for which they are providing expert testimony
- be occupationally competent in their area for which they are providing expert testimony
- have EITHER any qualification in assessment of workplace performance OR a work role which involves evaluating the everyday practice of staff within their area of expertise.

The EWT should be provided with induction, training and ongoing support from the assessor/IQA that is timely, meaningful, and appropriate, in order to encourage the provision of a robust statement of the student's performance against agreed standards or criteria.

A range of suitable EWTs should be explored with the student and workplace.

Centres should enable EWTs to provide and present their evidence in an efficient way which does not compromise validity and reliability. This could include the use of voice and audio recordings, or through remote discussions where the main assessor could scribe the EWT contributions.

Additionally, centres must adapt their Internal Quality Assurance strategies to ensure that Assessor judgements based on EWT are prioritised for standardisation and sampling activities.

## Remote technology

The use of remote technologies could be considered to observe aspects of the student's performance where privacy, dignity or confidentiality of any individual, service user, young person, or family using services is not compromised. For example, this may include on-line meetings and remote activities in which the student is contributing, and where the assessor could also attend remotely or observe through use of technology.

If the centre is using remote technologies, then there is responsibility to ensure standardised approaches are adopted and reviewed which consider units and criteria of the qualification where this approach might be suitable.

Use of Professional Discussion and Reflective Accounts
Reflective Accounts of practice and Professional Discussions
could be used to support other forms of evidence but are not
direct evidence sources which can replace the observation
requirement. These can be used to support the triangulation
of evidence.

#### **Simulation**

Due to COVID-19, simulation has been agreed in exceptional circumstances. Centres may only use evidence from simulated activity to meet assessment criteria where the relevant qualification specifically permits it.

Placement hours should still be planned and documented clearly as required, but the focus is not on the hours or percentage it is around the judgement of competency for the Student over the time of study at the relevant level. If the Student has not reached the level of competency required, then further placement will need to be scheduled at a later date and therefore completion of qualification will be delayed.

Placements need to be planned in early, in line with the qualification specification, phasing these in for the year 2 students as a priority. Centres could consider block placement rather than weekly, especially for second year students.

Consideration on a case by case basis should be given for progressing students from a level 2 to a level 3 qualification in the same sector.

Placement hours may therefore be reduced, where students have demonstrated level 3 skills/competencies within the level 2 qualification.

## Potential placement opportunities for students

These may include, but not limited to:

- Residential Care Home
- Nursing Home
- Day Centre
- Children's Centre/Hubs
- Health Centre
- Supported/Sheltered
- Accommodation
- Domiciliary/Community care
- Respite Care
- Residential Schools
- Assessment Centre
- Special Schools
- Hospital
- Specialised Voluntary Groups
- Social Enterprise Services

The following guidance can help assist centres in preparing students for placements.

https://www.cache.org.uk/placement-support/preparing-for-placement-health-and-social-care-learners