



Module Specification

Examination of the Newborn

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Examination of the Newborn

Module code: UZUR14-20-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 20

ECTS credit rating: 10

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

Partner institutions: None

Field: Maternal and Child Health

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: Examination of the Newborn 2026-27

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The examination of the newborn module will prepare registered midwives and nurses to undertake the Newborn and Infant Physical Examination (NIPE) aligned to national screening standards.

Features: Module Entry Requirements: Must have support and be working in a suitable practice area.

Educational aims: The module aims to prepare and develop learners understanding and application of both theoretical and practical skills to perform a safe and holistic examination of the newborn.

The module will cover concepts of newborn screening, history taking, congenital abnormalities with a focus on the ocular, cardiac, musculoskeletal and urogenital systems. Learners will critically evaluate newborn screening as a health education opportunity and evaluate nursing and midwifery professional skills such as multi-professional working, advocacy and accountability.

Outline syllabus: The module typically includes:

Preparation of the holistic examination and assessment of the apparently normal term newborn and the recognition of abnormality, with a focus on pathophysiology and embryological development of the ocular, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal and urogenital systems.

History taking and identification of risk factors and preparation of the environment for the examination process.

Evaluation of evidence and national standards related to newborn screening.

Communication skills focusing on multidisciplinary teamwork, referral pathways and communication skills.

Health education focusing on teaching and support of parents; health education and health promotion.

Ethical-legal issues including accountability and responsibility and applied research studies.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: A variety of teaching and learning strategies will be utilised throughout the module including; lectures, seminars, practical classes and workshops, and engagement with online and work-based learning.

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, preparation for taught sessions, assignment preparation and completion etc.

Learners will also undertake observed neonatal examinations in practice with NIPE practitioners.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate competence in performing the Newborn and Infant Physical Examination that meets national NIPE standards in both theory and practice; recognising deviations from normal.

MO2 Evaluate the evidence base for newborn screening and health promotion, using the newborn examination to engage with women and families through compassionate, sensitive, and effective communication.

MO3 Demonstrate leadership in newborn care through effective care planning, risk assessment, and timely referral within the multidisciplinary team.

Hours to be allocated: 200

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 155 hours

Face-to-face learning = 45 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzur14-20-3.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uzur14-20-3.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module has one assessment.

Summative Assessment:

Practical Skills Assessment (45-minutes maximum): an Objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) and supporting documentation (30 minutes maximum), plus critical questioning (15 minutes maximum).

The OSCE and documentation provides students with opportunity to demonstrate ability to undertake an holistic examination of the newborn, to include making appropriate referrals and developing a plan of care aligned to national standards.

Assessment tasks:

Practical Skills Assessment (First Sit)

Description: OSCE (maximum 30 minutes), plus critical questioning (maximum 15 minutes)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Practical Skills Assessment (Resit)

Description: OSCE (maximum 30 minutes), plus critical questioning (maximum 15 minutes)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

