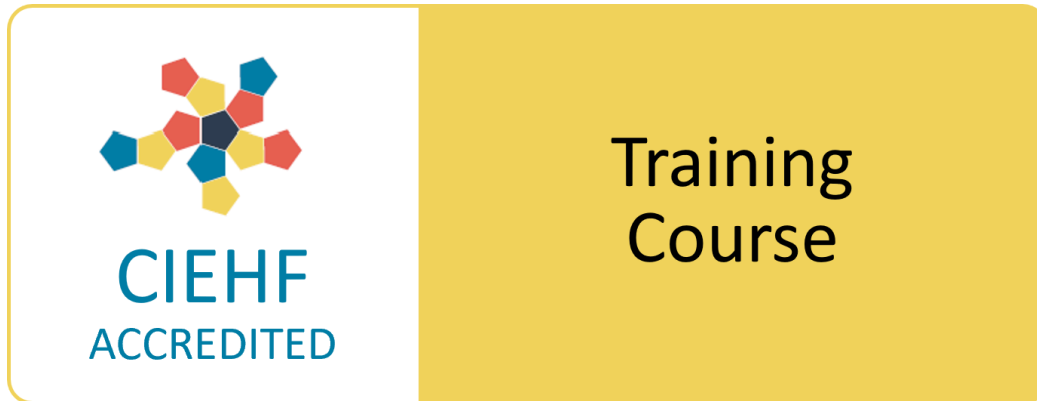


Course Information



ME33HF: Human Factors and Patient Safety

Credits: 15

Level: 3 (Medical Humanities SSC block); SCQF Level 9

Academic year: 2022/23

Teaching delivery: Blended

Full details of course materials, content and timetable can be found on MyAberdeen.

Course Coordinator(s):

Helen Vosper

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Course Overview:

'Healthcare hurts' has been the constant message since the Institute of Medicine report 'To Err is Human'. Studies suggest something in the order of 200,000 US deaths a year result from 'medical error', a picture replicated across the world. The result has been the emergence of what might be described as a patient safety movement, and a socio-political outcome has been the articulation by healthcare providers of

safety as an explicit organisational goal, delivery of which requires practical strategies and tools. As a result of this, healthcare professionals in training must engage with the safety and quality agenda. However, global efforts at improving patient safety have largely relied on Quality Improvement approaches and have not been as successful as we might have hoped. This has led to an increasing focus on Human Factors as a possible answer. Human Factors is a person-centred safety science exploring how individuals interact with work systems. It is recognised by most healthcare regulators (including the GMC) as offering a practical framework for developing safety competencies.

Content advice: This course will include references to patient safety incidents, some with serious outcomes. It is possible that some learners will find this distressing. Potentially sensitive content will be highlighted at the beginning of each topic. If you feel you may be particularly affected by any of this content, please contact the course co-ordinator in advance of the teaching week. Note that confidential and impartial support is available from the [Student Advice and Support Office](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/student-life/student-advice-and-support.php) (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/student-life/student-advice-and-support.php>). If you wish to speak to a Student Support Adviser, please email student.support@abdn.ac.uk (<mailto:student.support@abdn.ac.uk>).

Course Aim:

This course aims to provide an introduction to systems thinking and how this supports effective risk management. You will also be introduced to basic Human Factors 'toolkit' and have the opportunity to develop your skills as you carry out your own systems analysis. The course also aims to raise awareness of career opportunities within healthcare Human Factors and safety management. **Finally, as you can see from the badge at the top of this page, this course is accredited by the UK Professional Body for Human Factors (the Chartered Institute for Ergonomics and Human Factors). If you are interested in taking your safety education further, you can start to build a portfolio that will eventually allow you to make a claim for professional recognition as a Human Factors Technical Specialist (Healthcare). This portfolio requires a minimum of six entries and your assessment for ME33HF would qualify as at least one entry.**

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of the module, you will have:

1. Developed an understanding of systems thinking principles and been introduced to systems frameworks which can support you in understanding healthcare systems.
2. Developed an understanding of Human Factors principles and used these in common with systems frameworks to optimise system performance.
3. Explored capability-demand theory and demonstrated understanding of how a mismatch commonly undermines human performance in healthcare systems.
4. Explored principles of effective safety risk management and applied these in a specific healthcare system context.
5. Demonstrated an understanding of the importance of learning from adverse events.
6. Demonstrated the ability to recognise important system interactions and use these as a basis for making recommendations for improvement

7. Completed a partial systems analysis (in a healthcare context agreed with you tutor) including making recommendations for improvement

Teaching and Learning Methods:

It is intended that teaching and learning for this course will be largely face-to-face, but some material will be delivered through the VLE. Recorded versions of face-to-face 'lectures' will be made available to re-visit as you work on your systems analysis throughout the course. Over the six weeks of the course, you will have weekly lecture sessions (1 hour) and weekly tutorials (2 hours). You will also be expected to undertake self-directed learning and possibly groupwork, depending on the number of students on the course. Face-to-face sessions will involve the delivery of new material, but will also provide an opportunity for you to discuss your progress with your tutor. You should use this feedback to shape your self-directed study and assessment preparation. You will also have the opportunity for two formal 1:1 sessions with your tutor (in weeks 3 and 5) specifically to discuss your summative assessment preparation.

Assessments:

There is a single piece of summative assessment for this course. It will take the form of 3000-word report describing a partial analysis of a relevant system using the Systems Engineering Initiative for Patient Safety as a framework. This can be a system of your own choice, or can be provided by the tutor. The report should follow the structure discussed throughout the module, and should include appropriate description, boundary-setting, data gathering, extraction and synthesis. You should make recommendations/solutions for improvement based on the findings of your analysis. [Click here for more details about the summative assessment.](#)

The summative assessment will include a section on hierarchical task analysis (HTA). To support success in the final assessment, there will be an opportunity to submit an HTA for formative feedback. [Click here for more details about the formative task analysis assessment.](#)

Key Dates for Assessments:

The **formative task analysis** should be submitted to the dropbox by 23:30 on **Friday 15th November 2024**. Formative feedback will be provided during the following week.

The **final summative assessment** should be submitted to the dropbox by 23:30 on **Friday 6th December 2024**.