

# SFHCHS180

## Collect food, water and environmental specimens



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### Overview

This standard is for staff that collect samples of food, water or from the environment for testing. The collection can take place anywhere and can be for monitoring or diagnostic purposes.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 follow the appropriate standing operating procedures, policies and protocols for the method of collection and biological containment level
- P2 communicate required information to others clearly, accurately and in a timely fashion
- P3 consider and select the most appropriate method or technique for obtaining the required specimen
- P4 risk assess the method for collection of specimens taking into account the location
- P5 protect yourself and others from contamination during the process of specimen collection
- P6 confirm the equipment to be used is fit for purpose and practice
- P7 obtain specimens of the correct type, volume or size, from required locations, ensuring it is a valid specimen for the purpose of the investigation
- P8 collect specimens into suitable, sterile containers
- P9 label specimens legibly with accurate information including location obtained, date and time of sampling
- P10 place specimens in the correct location and conditions to maintain integrity for analysis
- P11 prepare specimens for safe and secure transport
- P12 take appropriate action to respond to an unexpected situation, problem or event

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the relevant statutory, regulatory and legislative requirements and guidance
- K2 the relevant standard operating procedures, policies and their importance
- K3 your limitations to practice and the importance of working within these in a clinical context
- K4 how to communicate with individuals to explain procedures and reassure, including those with special needs
- K5 requirements for frequency and type of specimen collection for infection control purposes
- K6 the importance of biological containment levels and when to use them
- K7 the optimum requirements for specimen volume, size, location and time of collection related to intended analysis
- K8 the range and type of containers for collection of specimens, including the use of reagents
- K9 the importance of ensuring that the equipment used is fit for purpose and practice
- K10 optimum conditions and location for specimen storage to enable analysis as appropriate
- K11 the importance of complete and accurate labelling of specimens collected custody
- K12 requirements for transportation of individual specimens to the laboratory or next stage of processing
- K13 contingency and risk assessments relating to specimen preparation

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## Additional Information

### External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB8 Biomedical investigation and intervention

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<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allie; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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<b>Suite</b>	Clinical Health Skills
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<b>Key words</b>	Collect, Environment, Food, Specimen, Water
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