

SFHCHS182

Transport specimens/samples



Overview

This standard covers the transportation of specimens, samples and donations between departments and sites. The transportation may be by hand, trolley, vehicle or airplane.

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

SFHCHS182

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 assess the risks and requirements for transport for each specific specimen/sample
- P2 follow the appropriate standing operating procedures, policies and protocols for the method of packaging and transporting specimens/samples
- P3 prepare and accurately update relevant records of specimens/samples transported and store them in correct locations for access by authorised people
- P4 communicate required information to others clearly, accurately and in a timely fashion
- P5 inform intended recipient of the specimen/sample of despatch date, time, method and expected arrival, where urgency, risk or specification requires it
- P6 take appropriate action to respond to an unexpected situation, problem or event
- P7 report incidents of failure of normal transport arrangements in a timely manner to relevant others so that appropriate action can be taken
- P8 handle specimens/samples for transport safely and wear suitable protective clothing as appropriate
- P9 ensure that the specimen/sample is transported safely and appropriately and arrives as required at its destination

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 relevant statutory, regulatory and legislative requirements and guidance
- K2 the relevant standard operating procedures, policies and their importance
- K3 your limitations to practice and an understanding of the importance of working within these in a clinical context
- K4 specific health and safety around the transportation of specimens/samples including the correct type and use of protective clothing
- K5 how to communicate with individuals to explain procedures and reassure, including those with special needs
- K6 the range of appropriate methods of transport available for the specimen/sample type and how to access them
- K7 factors affecting safety and integrity of specimens/samples when preparing and packing for transport
- K8 the importance of including relevant documents with specimens/samples and the range of relevant records associated with transportation and how to prepare, update and maintain
- K9 the requirements for notification of recipients
- K10 relevant corrective action and options when dealing with transport difficulties or non-arrival of specimens/samples
- K11 the requirements and methods for dealing with damage, spillage and decontamination

SFHCHS182

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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

SFHCHS182

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Developed by	Skills for Health
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Suite	Clinical Health Skills
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