

SFHCHS190

Investigate at a microscopic level



Overview

This is a broad based standard which is applicable to all forms of microscopic investigation except electron microscopy (this is covered by specific Healthcare Science standards). It covers the use of a microscope by all healthcare professionals in a variety of clinical settings.

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, protocols and Quality Assurance methods for the type of microscopic investigation and biological containment level requirements
- P2 confirm the equipment to be used is fit for purpose and practice
- P3 place the material to be investigated as appropriate for the microscopy technique being used
- P4 check the specimen/sample is suitable for investigation once it is on the stage
- P5 use the microscope appropriately and examine the required fields identified, looking for abnormal/normal structures, abnormal/normal appearance or artefacts as appropriate
- P6 record the findings of your investigation using appropriate documentation processes and in accordance with confidentiality requirements
- P7 take appropriate action to respond to an unexpected situation, problem or event
- P8 remove the specimen/sample once the investigation is complete and store or dispose of it as appropriate
- P9 ensure that the microscope is left in a suitable condition for future use

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 methods of ensuring unique identification of specimens and the importance of doing so
- K2 the relevant statutory, regulatory and legislative requirements and guidance
- K3 methods of preparation of specimens/samples for microscopic investigation
- K4 the correct equipment, methods of preparation and calibration for different circumstances and microscopic techniques
- K5 the importance of ensuring that the equipment is left in the appropriate condition once investigation is complete
- K6 differing types of microscopic investigation methods and their purpose
- K7 possible findings from microscopic investigations, including biological or mineral structures, abnormal or normal cells, and artefacts
- K8 factors that may influence the successful microscopic investigation of a sample/specimen and their significance
- K9 the importance of working effectively to make efficient use of resources and meet prioritisation needs, especially with regard to urgent samples/specimens
- K10 the relevant standard operating procedures and QA methods and their importance
- K11 contingency and risk assessments relating to microscopic investigation of specimens/samples

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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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Relevant occupations	Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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Suite	Clinical Health Skills
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