

# SFHCHS211

## Decommission equipment, medical devices and associated systems within healthcare



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### Overview

This standard relates to the removal of equipment and medical devices from use and the safe, legal and cost effective disposal. It may be applied to items that have reached the end of their working life, when there are more suitable items or those recalled when deficiencies in operation or safety have been identified. It links to decontamination, dismantling and safe disposal.

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 work within your level of competence, responsibility and accountability
- P2 apply appropriate health and safety measures, standard precautions for infection prevention and control within the decommissioning processes
- P3 liaise with relevant stakeholders and end users to discuss and plan the decommissioning process and before the equipment, medical device or system is removed to ensure continuity of service
- P4 check for any specific and particular requirements for the decommissioning process and where appropriate identify the presence and category of hazardous materials and the risks associated with their disposal
- P5 establish whether the item should be scrapped or whether sale or donation to another party would be appropriate
- P6 agree the criteria and process for withdrawal of items from service taking into consideration the critical factors required to achieve safe and effective decommissioning
- P7 check the decontamination record status and ensure it is safe to decommission
- P8 apply the most effective option for safe and compliant withdrawal and disposal of the item and its associated systems and any hazardous substances or materials
- P9 where appropriate dismantle and recycle any suitable working component parts according to protocols
- P10 decommission and dispose of the item and its associated systems by methods appropriate to the identified risks in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols
- P11 maintain full, accurate and legible records of information and store in correct location in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your own level of competence, authority and specialist knowledge base related to the decommissioning process
- K2 the importance of liaising with relevant stakeholders and end users when planning and undertaking decommissioning and before removing essential equipment, medical device or system
- K3 the scientific, engineering and technological principles of the item relevant to decommissioning
- K4 the factors to consider when determining that items have reached the end of their working life and how to do this
- K5 the consequences of not removing items from use that have been identified for decommissioning
- K6 the risks associated with dismantling, decommissioning, recycling and disposal and the importance of risk assessments and how to do this
- K7 the procedures for decommissioning and the particular requirements for the equipment, medical devices, products and associated systems
- K8 the importance of appropriate health and safety measures, infection prevention and control requirements, decontamination procedures and safety implications of components and materials of the items to be disposed
- K9 why it is important to follow decommissioning procedures set by national and local legislation, standards and guidelines and the consequences of not doing so
- K10 how to dismantle, and dispose of items for safe and effective decommissioning
- K11 the importance of recycling component parts where this is applicable and how to do this
- K12 the procedures and methods for safe and secure storage and for prevention of unauthorised use of decommissioned equipment
- K13 the importance of completing and archiving all necessary documentation accurately, in a timely manner, in the format required
- K14 the current national legislation, local guidelines, local policies and protocols which affect your work practice
- K15 the policies and guidance that clarify your scope of practice, accountabilities and the working relationship between yourself and others

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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: EF1 Systems, vehicles and equipment

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**Suite** Clinical Health Skills

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