

SFHDiabCYP02

Assess a child/young person with symptoms of diabetes and make a diagnosis



Overview

This standard covers assessing a child or young person with symptoms of diabetes and making a diagnosis. The child/young person, or their family, may suspect they have diabetes, and request an assessment, or they may have been advised to seek an examination by another healthcare practitioner. In carrying out the activities described in this competence, you should also be aware of the continuous need to protect children and young people from harm and abuse, and to create environments that protect them from harm and abuse.

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 communicate with the child or young person and those involved in their care in a way that is appropriate to their age, understanding and preference
- P2 ask the child or young person and their family to explain their condition in their own words
- P3 ask appropriate questions that will enable you to assess whether the child/young person is experiencing symptoms of diabetes
- P4 obtain/confirm the child/young person's and their family's relevant medical history and their recent and past medications
- P5 carry out baseline observations and tests relevant to confirming the presence of diabetes
- P6 make a justifiable assessment, based on the responses of the child/young person and their family, the baseline observations and tests and other medical conditions, whether to refer them for further investigations
- P7 arrange further investigations, if required, following national, local and organisational guidelines and protocols
- P8 explain to the child/young person and their family why you are arranging further investigations, if any, what can be expected to happen and the expected timescales and possible implications of normal and abnormal results
- P9 provide opportunities for the child/young person and their family to ask questions and increase their understanding of diabetes
- P10 assess how the child/young person and their family are feeling and provide reassurance where appropriate
- P11 interpret all the evidence available and make a justifiable assessment of:
 - P11.1 whether the child/young person has diabetes
 - P11.2 the child/young person's type of diabetes
 - P11.3 the implications of other medical conditions the child/young person may have
 - P11.4 the child/young person's related needs
 - P11.5 risks to the child/young person's health and well being in the short and longer term
- P12 consult with colleagues, or seek advice from others who are able to assist, where you are unable or unsure of how to interpret the information you have gathered
- P13 consider who is the most appropriate person to confirm the diagnosis with the individual, according to local protocols
- P14 make a full, accurate and clear record of the information obtained, results of baseline observations and tests, and agreed follow-up action

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 national guidelines on: diabetes management, education and service delivery, and on providing healthcare for children and young people
- K2 theories of the causes of diabetes
- K3 signs and symptoms of diabetes, including WHO criteria for diagnosis
- K4 normal and abnormal blood glucose and HbA1c values
- K5 how to monitor glucose levels, HbA1c, ketones and blood pressure
- K6 the importance and effects of education and self management for children, young people and their families
- K7 the development stages of children and young people, and the implications of this for communicating with them
- K8 the psychological impact of diabetes, on children, young people and their families, at diagnosis and in the long-term
- K9 how to gather information from children, young people and their families about their health
- K10 how to work in partnership with children, young people and their families
- K11 the social, cultural and economic background of the patient group
- K12 the impact of nutrition, particularly carbohydrates, on diabetes in children and young people
- K13 the impact of physical activity on diabetes in children and young people
- K14 the effects of smoking, alcohol and illicit drugs
- K15 the effects of, and how to manage, inter current illness in children and young people
- K16 the use of insulin to manage diabetes
- K17 the other medications used to manage diabetes
- K18 the long-term complications of diabetes and when they are likely to occur
- K19 relevant professional guidelines, standards and codes of professional conduct
- K20 the law and good practice guidelines on consent
- K21 your own role in the healthcare team and the role of others
- K22 local guidelines on diabetes healthcare
- K23 local referral pathways
- K24 local child protection procedures
- K25 local systems for recording patient information
- K26 audit and quality assurance systems
- K27 sources of practitioner and patient information on diabetes relevant to children/young people
- K28 contact details of local and national support groups

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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: HWB6 Assessment and Treatment Planning

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