

## SFHEC07

# Assess and determine the health status and needs of children or young people presenting for emergency assistance



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### Overview

This standard covers assessing a child or young person who presents as a medical emergency and involves carrying out primary and secondary surveys of the child or young person to enable a judgment to be formed as to their health status and needs for assistance.

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 comply with all the relevant legal, professional, and organisational requirements and guidelines
- P3 explain the assessment process to the child or young person and those involved in their care and obtain the necessary agreement and consent
- P4 enable the child or young person and those involved in their care to seek advice and express any concerns about the assessment process
- P5 conduct all observations and measurements systematically and thoroughly in order of priority (including Airway, Breathing, Circulation)
- P6 take steps to ensure safety and minimise risks to yourself, the child or young person and others in the immediate environment
- P7 use appropriate methodologies and associated equipment systematically to gather as much information and data as possible on the child's or young person's health status and likely needs
- P8 obtain data at appropriate intervals to:
  - P8.1 provide effective monitoring
  - P8.2 ensure accurate interpretation of the results
  - P8.3 enable prompt action to be taken
- P9 obtain as much information as possible about the circumstances leading up to the child or young person requiring emergency assistance including any pre-existing conditions that may influence his or her health needs
- P10 use discretion and respect throughout the assessment, balancing the rights of the child or young person with those involved in their care
- P11 minimise any unnecessary discomfort and encourage the child or young person, and any carer with them, to participate as fully as possible in the process
- P12 encourage those involved in their care to give appropriate support to the child or young person during the assessment
- P13 monitor the child or young person's health status for a sufficient duration to be satisfied that their condition is safe and stable
- P14 keep accurate, timed, complete and legible records of the findings of your assessment
- P15 make use of and interpret accurately all of the available information and data
- P16 develop a judgment which is justifiable given the information and data available at the time with regard to:
  - P16.1 the health status of the child or young person
  - P16.2 the implications of any changes in the health status of the child or

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young person since you have been in attendance

P16.3 the nature, severity and extent of the child's or young person's health needs

- P17 acknowledge any uncertainties and conflicts in your judgment
- P18 recognise accurately potential signs of abuse and report them promptly to the appropriate person, in line with national and organisational policy
- P19 form an accurate evaluation of the risks to the child or young person based on your assessment
- P20 recognise promptly any life-threatening or high risk conditions
- P21 make full and effective use of any protocols, guidelines and other sources of information and advice to inform your decision making
- P22 arrive at a judgment as quickly as possible and refer the child or young person on to the appropriate pathway in line with your conclusions
- P23 seek additional support and advice from other practitioners as necessary to arrive at a satisfactory judgment as to the health status and needs of the child or young person
- P24 determine and confirm when death has occurred within the limits of your own role, accountability and scope of practice or inform an appropriate other of the need for them to make this confirmation
- P25 maintain full, accurate and legible records of your assessment and make these available for future reference in line with organisational practices

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the reasons why your role, responsibilities and accountability should always be explained
- K2 the impact of the developmental process on a child's or young person's communication needs, both in terms of clinical and psychological factors
- K3 why it is important to establish informed consent to the assessment you are intending to make
- K4 the methods that are used to obtain informed consent and how to confirm that sufficient information has been provided on which to base this judgment
- K5 the steps you would take to ascertain the level of understanding that a child or young person, and their carers if present, have of the assessment process and related interventions
- K6 the steps you should take when unable to arrive at a satisfactory judgment
- K7 the importance of clear communication in clinical situations
- K8 the importance of recording information clearly, accurately and legibly
- K9 the sorts of risks that can arise in relation to the assessment of a child or young person presenting as an emergency and the actions you would take to minimise these
- K10 when different methodologies should be used to enable an accurate picture of the child's or young person's health status and needs according to age and gender
- K11 the steps you would take to ensure that the privacy, dignity, wishes and beliefs of the child or young person are maintained
- K12 what actions can and cannot be taken to minimise discomfort when assessing a child or young person presenting with different types of symptoms
- K13 why it is important for a thorough and accurate assessment that the child or young person is encouraged to participate as fully as possible
- K14 the difficulties that can arise in reaching a judgment on the health status and needs of the child or young person
- K15 why it is important to be aware of and monitor changes in the child's or young person's condition over the course of your assessment
- K16 clinical norms for children and young people with regard to:
  - K16.1 temperature
  - K16.2 pulse
  - K16.3 respiration
  - K16.4 blood pressure (non-invasive)
  - K16.5 oxygen saturation level
  - K16.6 coma (Glasgow coma scale)

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- K16.7 pupil reaction
- K16.8 eCG
- K16.9 urinalysis
- K16.10 blood glucose
- K16.11 skin colour and pallor
- K16.12 consciousness (AVPU)
- K16.13 skin integrity/risk of pressure sores
- K17 the indicators of high risk or life threatening conditions in relation to the above parameters
- K18 clinical norms with reference to typical presenting symptoms in a child or young person of different ages and gender including:
  - K18.1 breathlessness
  - K18.2 bleeding and fluid loss
  - K18.3 pain
  - K18.4 tissue trauma
  - K18.5 skin rashes
  - K18.6 toxic ingestion
  - K18.7 altered consciousness, dizziness, faints and fits
  - K18.8 altered behaviour
  - K18.9 fever
  - K18.10 falls
  - K18.11 ear, nose and throat problems
- K19 why it is important to ensure that you obtain as much background information as possible
- K20 why it is important to ensure that all information is taken into account in making decisions
- K21 the processes you would go through to arrive at a justifiable assessment of a child or young person
- K22 the organisational policy and practices with regard to the keeping and sharing of records
- K23 the legislation which relates to working with a child or young person, including aspects relating to confidentiality and information sharing, the provision of services, the rights of the child, child protection, anti-discriminatory practice, informed consent, relevant mental health legislation and care programme approach
- K24 how to interpret and apply legislation to the work being undertaken
- K25 the main issues and debates relating to the health and well-being of children and young people
- K26 the ethics concerning consent and confidentiality, and the tensions which may exist between a child's or young person's rights and the organisation's responsibility to the child or young person
- K27 the legal framework for consent in childhood, including when a child or young person is entitled to give consent for themselves, and the role and responsibility of those with parental responsibility for the child or young

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- person in giving consent
- K28 the importance of gaining assent from any child or young person who lacks capacity to consent

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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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<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Version number</b>	1
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<b>Date approved</b>	June 2010
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<b>Indicative review date</b>	June 2012
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<b>Validity</b>	Current
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<b>Status</b>	Original
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<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Original URN</b>	EC07
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Health, Public Services and Care; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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<b>Suite</b>	Emergency, Urgent and Scheduled Care
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<b>Key words</b>	emergency care, urgent care, scheduled care
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