

SFHEC11M

Investigate and diagnose an unwell child or young person presenting for emergency assistance



Overview

This standard covers the formation of a justifiable diagnosis of an unwell child or young person presenting for emergency assistance. The standard involves the collection and systematic, balanced analysis of information to arrive at a diagnosis.

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

SFHEC11M

Investigate and diagnose an unwell child or young person presenting for emergency assistance

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 explain clearly to the child or young person:
 - P1.1 your own role, responsibilities, accountability and scope of practice
 - P1.2 the information that is needed from the assessment and who might have access to it
- P2 explain the assessment process to the child or young person and those involved in their care and obtain the necessary agreement and consent
- P3 discuss and agree with colleagues:
 - P3.1 who is responsible for aspects of the assessment and how this will be managed and reported
 - P3.2 needs and risks and how these can best be addressed
- P4 ensure you obtain a complete and accurate history of the presenting child or young person
- P5 accurately and promptly identify the additional information which you need to make a differential diagnosis
- P6 follow the appropriate procedures and protocols to arrange for any investigations or observations needed to provide you with relevant information
- P7 review all the available information, noting and taking account of any conflicting, confounding or unusual aspects
- P8 recognise accurately and promptly the differentiating features of commonly occurring conditions presenting in unwell children and young people
- P9 recognise promptly the need for, and obtain, any additional information needed to clarify or confirm your analysis
- P10 identify and make use of relevant research and findings from evidence based practice to inform your interpretation
- P11 promptly seek additional views and advice from relevant others when your interpretation produces unclear results
- P12 work in compliance with child related legislation at all times, particularly where child protection and consent issues are concerned.
- P13 develop a diagnosis which is:
 - P13.1 justifiable given the information available at the time
 - P13.2 likely to result in the optimum outcome for the child or young person
- P14 balance any additional or unusual aspects of the child's or young person's presenting features against their overall presentation, acknowledging any uncertainties and conflicts
- P15 recognise accurately potential signs of abuse and report them promptly to the appropriate person, in line with national and organisational policy

SFHEC11M

Investigate and diagnose an unwell child or young person presenting for emergency assistance

- P16 form an accurate and justifiable identification of:
 - P16.1 the nature and severity of the child's or young person's condition
 - P16.2 the likely causes of the individual's health problems
 - P16.3 the implications of pre-existing and other medical problems which the child or young person may have
 - P16.4 the prognosis for the child or young person
 - P16.5 the child's or young person's related needs
 - P16.6 risks to the child's or young person's health and well being in the short and longer term
- P17 form a working diagnosis as quickly as possible
- P18 seek additional support and advice from other practitioners as necessary to arrive at a satisfactory working diagnosis
- P19 re-evaluate and adjust, if necessary, your initial diagnosis in the light of emerging symptoms and/or the results of investigations
- P20 determine and confirm when death has occurred, within the limits of your own role, accountability and scope of practice, or inform the appropriate other of the need for them to make this confirmation
- P21 maintain full, accurate and legible records of your diagnosis and any assumptions made and make these available for future reference in line with organisational practices
- P22 initiate symptomatic treatment at the earliest opportunity in line with national, local and organisational guidelines and protocols
- P23 initiate action which provides the best possible outcome for the child or young person
- P24 advise the child or young person and any significant others of the diagnosis:
 - P24.1 at the earliest opportunity
 - P24.2 in a manner which is sensitive to their concerns
- P25 provide opportunities for the child or young person and significant others to ask questions and develop their understanding of the diagnosis
- P26 identify and share with colleagues relevant details of the diagnosis you have reached and its implications for further action
- P27 identify and refer any potentially inappropriate behaviour or concerns about child abuse or neglect to the relevant people
- P28 work in compliance with child related legislation at all times, particularly where child protection and consent issues are concerned

SFHEC11M

Investigate and diagnose an unwell child or young person presenting for emergency assistance

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the anatomy and physiology of the human body
- K2 growth patterns and related anatomical and physiological features in a child or young person
- K3 the value and uses of different sources of information in reaching a diagnosis
- K4 the importance of a systematic and logical approach to information use and analysis, and the risks associated with jumping to a premature conclusion
- K5 why it is important to ensure that all information is taken into account in reaching a diagnosis and why you need to be prepared to review that diagnosis in the light of emerging information
- K6 the processes that should be gone through to arrive at a justifiable diagnosis for a child or young person presenting with unclear or conflicting symptoms
- K7 the steps you should take when unable to arrive at a satisfactory diagnosis
- K8 the importance of clear communication in clinical situations
- K9 the importance of communicating with a child or young person in a manner which:
 - K9.1 is consistent with their level of understanding, culture, background and preferred ways of communicating
 - K9.2 acknowledges the purpose of the communication
 - K9.3 is appropriate to the context
 - K9.4 encourages their participation
 - K9.5 responds to communication of any kind from them
- K10 the importance of maintaining confidentiality during communication, consistent with legislation and the employer's policies
- K11 the importance of recording information clearly, accurately and legibly
- K12 the differentiating features that can be used to develop a diagnosis of health problems in the unwell child or young person
- K13 health problems which may present with similar symptoms and how to differentiate between them
- K14 the causes and contributing factors to commonly occurring health problems in the unwell child or young person
- K15 clinical norms with regard to typical conditions presenting as a clinical emergency in relation to the unwell child or young person
- K16 the complicating factors that can make diagnosis difficult in relation to the acutely ill child or young person
- K17 the different investigative procedures that can be applied to enable a diagnosis of commonly occurring health problems in the unwell child or

SFHEC11M

Investigate and diagnose an unwell child or young person presenting for emergency assistance

- young person to be reached, and how and when to call for each
- K18 the baseline observations used in diagnosing commonly occurring health problems in the unwell child or young person
- K19 the further investigations required to diagnose commonly occurring health problems in the unwell infant, child or young person
- K20 where further investigations can be carried out, who undertakes them, how to request them, the timescales involved and any contra-indications of which you need to be aware when deciding to call for them
- K21 the pathophysiologies and pathopsychologies underlying commonly occurring health problems in the unwell child or young person
- K22 national, local and organisational procedures for the emergency treatment of the acutely ill child or young person
- K23 the organisational policy and practices with regard to the keeping and sharing of clinical records and information
- K24 organisational procedures on making notes
- K25 national, local and organisational procedures for requesting investigative procedures
- K26 the child protection procedures within your organisation
- K27 circumstances when further investigations, including child protection procedures, can be carried out, in line with organisational and national protocols and guidelines
- K28 the responsibilities and limitations for identifying and referring possible abuse or neglect pertinent to your role
- K29 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
- K30 how to interpret and apply legislation to the work being undertaken
- K31 the main issues and debates relating to the health and well-being of the child or young person
- K32 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 that child or young person
- K33 the legal framework for consent in childhood, including when a child or young person is entitled to give consent for them self, and the role and responsibility of those with parental responsibility for the child or young person in giving consent
- K34 the importance of gaining assent from a child or young person who lacks capacity to consent

SFHEC11M

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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

SFHEC11M

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Developed by	Skills for Health
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Version number	1
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Date approved	June 2010
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Indicative review date	June 2012
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Validity	Current
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Status	Original
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Originating organisation	Skills for Health
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Original URN	EC11M
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Relevant occupations	Health, Public Services and Care; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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Suite	Emergency, Urgent and Scheduled Care
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Key words	emergency care, urgent care, scheduled care
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