

SFHEUSC26

Care for the individual within the critical care environment



Overview

This standard covers the provision of care for individuals in a critical care environment, which may include high dependency units, intensive care units, wards, or recovery rooms. The provision of critical care for an individual must be inter-related with the monitoring of the individual's condition in the critical care environment and any evaluation of and suggested modifications to care as a result of this monitoring process.

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 apply standard precautions for infection control and other relevant health and safety measures in the critical care environment, and wear personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment as appropriate
- P2 confirm the individuals' identity and ensure that they have given their informed consent for critical care to be provided
- P3 refer to the individuals care plan and details about their underlying or pre-existing condition and interventions undertaken to confirm the critical care needs of the individual and the level and type of critical care assigned
- P4 deliver the appropriate pharmaceutical agents to the individual to optimise their recovery and minimise their pain and discomfort, in line with indications from the pain assessment conducted
- P5 ensure that the individual is positioned appropriately, in a manner that minimises complications, risk of injury and maximises their comfort
- P6 identify and evaluate any deterioration in an individuals condition and take corrective action or report to others where appropriate or necessary to ensure that attempts are made to restore the individuals optimal health and physiological status
- P7 react appropriately to restore or maintain optimal health and physiological status when the outcomes from monitoring the individual show a deterioration in their condition, using appropriate equipment and techniques
- P8 ensure that the individual undergoes continuous physiological monitoring and point of care testing during the time they receive critical care and ensure that the critical care provided is informed by the findings of the monitoring conducted
- P9 take appropriate action to maintain organ support systems for the functioning of the organs of the individual, in accordance with the individuals care plan and condition, taking into account:
 - P9.1 the level and type of critical care assigned
 - P9.2 the underlying condition of the individual
 - P9.3 the need for infection control
- P10 maintain tissue viability and apply, replace or remove any post intervention materials as appropriate to the individual, ensuring that:
 - P10.1 the wound site is free from infection and healing appropriately
 - P10.2 the correct post-intervention materials are obtained
 - P10.3 the correct procedure is followed in line with good medical practice, local protocols and manufacturers instructions
- P11 maintain the hygiene and general cleanliness of individuals in a manner that maintains their privacy and dignity and minimises the risk of infection of the individual, others and the critical care environment

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- P12 address any mobility needs that the individual has whilst in your care and ensure that their mobility is appropriately restricted or encouraged, in line with their care plan and condition
- P13 comfort and reassure individuals in an appropriate and timely manner throughout your interaction with them
- P14 communicate a coherent and succinct analysis of the individuals current status and anticipated problems at the point of handover of care and monitoring to colleagues
- P15 maintain timely, accurate, complete and legible records in accordance with legislation, policies, procedures and guidelines and work at all times within appropriate patient and information confidentiality guidelines and protocols
- P16 work within your scope of responsibility and accountability, referring to others where appropriate and/or necessary

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines which affect your work practice in relation to critical care
- K2 your responsibilities under the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines with regard to your actions within the critical care environment
- K3 the legislation, policies and guidance which clarify your scope of practice and the relationship between yourself and other members of staff in terms of delegation and supervision
- K4 legislation, policies and guidance relating to the moving and positioning of individuals and the impact they have upon your work
- K5 the principles of asepsis, the maintenance of the sterile field and the potential consequence of poor practice
- K6 the importance of following standard precautions relevant to the provision of critical care, and the protective clothing which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
- K7 the potential consequences of poor practice in relation to the application of standard precautions
- K8 your role and responsibilities, those of other health and care providers and the importance of working within your own scope of practice
- K9 the methods, procedures and techniques for providing critical care
- K10 the methods, procedures and techniques for optimising pain control, wound care, mobility, and hygiene for the individual receiving critical care
- K11 the methods, procedures and techniques for setting up, assembling, connecting and attaching equipment and resources required during the provision of critical care
- K12 the methods, procedures and techniques for maintaining vital physiological functions for an individual receiving critical care
- K13 the processes you would go through in establishing and prioritising the appropriate aspects of critical care to be provided
- K14 how to practise in such a way as to minimise complications and risk to individuals receiving critical care
- K15 the types of complications that might arise during the provision of critical care and the responses that should be made to deal with them
- K16 the principles of pharmaceuticals, including local, general and regional anaesthesia and the relevance and impact of these on the provision of care to individuals in the critical care environment
- K17 anatomy, general and system specific physiology and pathology and its application to the provision of care to individuals in the critical care environment
- K18 the resources and equipment required during the provision of care to individuals in the critical care environment

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- K19 the importance of recording information clearly, accurately and in a systematic manner
- K20 the types of information that must be recorded in relation to the provision of care in the critical care environment
- K21 the importance of the timely recording information with regard to the provision of care to individuals in the critical care environment

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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: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs

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