

## SFHEUSC34

### Provide musculo-skeletal support



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#### Overview

This standard covers the actions of providing musculo-skeletal support for conditions such as fractures, tendon/muscle damage, major tissue damage, lacerations. Musculo-skeletal support may include the use of bandages, straps, slings, splints, collars and spinal boards.

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 ensure that a pain assessment is conducted and that appropriate pain relief has been administered prior to provision of musculo-skeletal support
- P2 provide initial support and immobilisation of the affected part of the body if more comprehensive musculo-skeletal support cannot be immediately provided
- P3 straighten limbs where appropriate and possible without causing unnecessary damage or pain to the area of the body that requires musculo-skeletal support
- P4 determine the appropriate musculo-skeletal support, taking into account the individuals requirement for support, previous level of function and expected functional outcome
- P5 reassure the individual and explain what you are doing throughout your interaction with the them
- P6 position the individual appropriately for the application of the musculo-skeletal support, moving and handling them in a way which minimises their pain, discomfort and friction to the affected area
- P7 ensure that there are sufficient people available to assist in the application of musculo-skeletal support to ensure that minimal pain or damage is caused to the site needing musculo-skeletal support
- P8 apply and secure the musculo-skeletal support appropriately:
  - P8.1 ensuring that it is the appropriate strength and thickness, adding extra reinforcement where necessary
  - P8.2 ensuring that it is stable but not unnecessarily restrictive
  - P8.3 ensuring that only safe and appropriate materials are in direct contact with the individuals' skin when the musculo-skeletal support is applied
- P9 inform the individual of any relevant details about maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of their musculo-skeletal support
- P10 respect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of the individual throughout your interaction with them
- P11 maintain timely, accurate, complete and legible records in accordance with national and local legislation, policies and guidelines and work at all times within appropriate patient and information confidentiality legislation and protocols
- P12 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 providing musculo-skeletal support
- K2 your responsibilities under the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines and local within the EUSC environment
- K3 the importance of working within your own scope of practice and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your scope of practice
- K4 why it is important to get positive confirmation of the individual's identity before commencing the provision of musculo-skeletal support, and effective methods of obtaining positive identification
- K5 why it is necessary to obtain informed consent prior to working with an individual and the methods used to achieve this where the individual is not able to give their consent directly (e.g. because they are comatose or have communication differences)
- K6 legislation, policies, protocols and guidance relating to the moving and positioning of individuals and the impact they have upon your work
- K7 the application of standard precautions in the context of provision of musculo-skeletal support
- K8 the potential consequences of poor practice in relation to the application of standard precautions
- K9 your role and the importance of working within your own scope of practice
- K10 the roles and responsibilities of other team members
- K11 the importance of keeping the individual informed about what you are doing
- K12 the importance of considering the individual's level of understanding in answering questions about the provision of musculo-skeletal support
- K13 the different methods of communication you may have to use in relation to individuals with communication difficulties or differences
- K14 the musculo-skeletal, organ/tissue and peripheral nervous systems relevant to the application musculo skeletal support
- K15 the principles and potential complications of the healing of areas requiring/receiving musculo-skeletal support
- K16 the principles of asepsis and the potential consequence of antisepsis, wound contamination and cross-infection
- K17 methods, procedures and techniques for applying musculo-skeletal support
- K18 the processes you would go through to determine the most appropriate method/technique for applying musculo-skeletal support
- K19 the resources necessary for the type of musculo-skeletal support being

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- provided, how to use them and the implications of incorrect usage
- K20 the importance of recording information clearly, accurately and in a systematic manner
- K21 the types of information that must be recorded in relation to the provision of musculo-skeletal support
- K22 the importance of timely information recording regarding the provision of musculo-skeletal support
- K23 the importance of documenting the time/duration of any traction applied

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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: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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