

SFHHCS17

Obtain specimens from individuals for laboratory investigation



Overview

This standard covers obtaining specimens for laboratory investigation. This competence applies to obtaining appropriate biological specimens from individuals of any age, which may be used for patient/donor management or investigation. Individuals may be referred by appropriate practitioners. Collection of specimens should take place in designated areas, in hospitals, clinics, and workplaces and at home. Collection of blood specimens is not included.

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 appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control
- P2 check the individual's identity and gain valid consent and authorisation for the planned activity
- P3 ensure privacy and dignity at all times, taking into account the individuals ethnic and religious background which might influence certain aspects of collecting specimens
- P4 communicate effectively in the appropriate medium to meet the individuals and/or relevant others needs and preferences
- P5 check the request form that accompanies the specimen is legible and accurate, contains the relevant information regarding the requester's and individual's details, the specimen type and requested testing procedures
- P6 check any pre collection procedures are completed and ensure specimens are collected in the correct order where necessary
- P7 provide the necessary instruction and the appropriate collection container for the specimen to the individual
- P8 obtain specimens from clients when they cannot do this themselves and place the specimen in the appropriate container
- P9 label specimens correctly, attach the relevant documentation, place in the relevant biohazard bags and put them in the correct place for storage, collection or transportation
- P10 recognise and report without delay any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the procedure, halt the procedure and take the appropriate action
- P11 record any problems in obtaining the specimen to the appropriate person without delay
- P12 maintain full, accurate and legible records regarding the specimen collection, in the correct location in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols

SFHHCS17

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your own level of competence, authority and knowledge base in relation to obtaining specimens from individuals
- K2 when, where and how to refer to colleagues for advice and information when you are unable to obtain specimens from individuals
- K3 the importance of applying appropriate health and safety measures, standard precautions for infection prevention and control in obtaining specimens from individuals and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K4 how to communicate effectively in the appropriate medium to meet the individuals and/or relevant others needs and preferences
- K5 the need to identify the individual and confirm their valid consent and authorisation for the collection of specimens
- K6 the importance of maintaining the individual's dignity, privacy, ethical and confidentiality considerations during specimen collection
- K7 the importance of giving clear instructions to individuals to enable them to collect their own specimens when appropriate
- K8 the range and type of specific preparation requirements prior to specimen collection within your work practice
- K9 the range and types of specimens that you may obtain within your work practice and the materials, equipment and other resources required
- K10 the range of methods and techniques used for specimen collection and how to avoid unnecessary discomfort or distress to individuals
- K11 the information that is required to ensure accurate labelling of specimens and the request form
- K12 the implications related to incorrect or incomplete labelling or dispatch of specimens
- K13 the transport mechanisms available from the specimen collection site and how to ensure the safety, security and safe handling of specimens for transport to the laboratory or the next stage of processing
- K14 the corrective action to be taken in the event of problems or adverse reactions occurring during specimen collection and how to seek advice
- K15 the current national legislation, guidelines, organisational policies and protocols, which affect your work practice
- K16 the policies and guidance that clarify your scope of practice, accountabilities and the working relationship between yourself and others

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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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