SFHHCS4
Measure an individual's healthcare radiation exposure to minimise risk

Overview

This standard relates to the use of a range of methods to measure and record radiation exposure to individuals to minimise the risks. These individuals include staff, and individuals receiving radiation during diagnostic or therapeutic activities. Individuals undertaking this function may liaise closely with their relevant others to confirm accuracy of information and compliance with relevant legislation.

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

SFHHCS4

Measure an individual's healthcare radiation exposure to minimise risk

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 the policies and guidance that clarify your scope of practice, accountabilities and the working relationship between yourself and others

P2 work within your level of competence, responsibility and accountability

P3 confirm sources of radiation and likely type of exposure for all individuals within the controlled radiation environments

P4 confirm that all required procedures and associated safety measures are current and compliant with relevant legislation

P5 ensure measurement devices are operating at the required performance level to give an accurate and traceable measure of radiation

P6 apply appropriate health and safety measures and standard precautions for infection prevention and control during the measurement process

P7 use relevant methodologies to measure radiation sources applied to recipients suitable to the source, type of exposure, dose and level of risk

P8 where appropriate to work practice, ensure radiation activity is below safety guidance limits before recipients of radiation are discharged or released from controlled areas

P9 check individuals and/or relevant others understand the possible side effects from radiation exposure

P10 undertake appropriate measurements within the controlled environments and surrounding environment to ensure radiation exposure safety limits are not exceeded

P11 determine and assess the appropriateness of the projected radiation exposure over a suitable period of time for an individual and/or the controlled area and surrounding environment

P12 record the results of measurements accurately and in correct format, referencing the measurements to accepted published values to indicate the controlled area is operating within accepted parameters in line with current legislation and organisational requirements

P13 report actual and potential risks from radiation, in context, to other healthcare professionals and where appropriate seek assistance and advice

P14 maintain full, accurate and legible records of information and store in correct location in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols

SFHHCS4

Measure an individual's healthcare radiation exposure to minimise risk

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 your own level of competence, authority and specialist knowledge base

K2 the range of stakeholders involved and their information needs related to measuring the range of radiation within controlled designated radiation workplace areas and where, when and how to seek advice and support

K3 the requirements for classification of workers and the acceptable exposure dose limits in line with current legislation and organisational requirements

K4 how to communicate and provide advice, guidance and information effectively in the appropriate medium to meet individuals needs and preferences for the measurement of radiation exposure

K5 the range, type and dose of radiation used within diagnostic or therapeutic activities within the work area

K6 the range of acceptable exposure limits to recipients and the occupational exposure limits for staff within your work practice in line with current legislation and organisational requirements

K7 the appropriate methodologies for the estimation of dose and exposure over time for both staff and recipients

K8 the implications of incorrect or incomplete measurements of radiation exposure dose and times and the consequences of this for the recipient and/or staff

K9 where appropriate to work practice, how to calculate an individual's dose requirement to balance minimising risks of exposure against planned intervention objectives and the required procedures of the dosimetry calibration

K10 where appropriate to work practice, the importance of ensuring the recipients and their relevant others understand the effects of radiation exposure

K11 the importance and requirements for personal safety measurements applicable to the work practice activities

K12 the range, type and operation of suitable measurement devices available and their limitations for personal occupational monitoring and monitoring recipients following radiation exposure

K13 how to ensure key stakeholders understand how to check their personal monitoring devices and the significance and implications of reaching maximum exposure measurements within unexpected timeframes

K14 the factors and circumstances of the working environment that contribute to radiation exposure and the importance of environmental monitoring

K15 how to undertake environmental monitoring of controlled work areas and the surrounding area, the acceptable limits and the implications and consequences of adverse results and who to inform

K16 the current legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols, clinical and information governance related to radiation that

	affect your work practice
K17	the policies and guidance that clarify your scope of practice, accountabilities and the working relationship between yourself and others

SFHHCS4

Measure an individual’s healthcare radiation exposure to minimise risk

Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: Core 3 Health, safety and security

SFHHCS4

Measure an individual's healthcare radiation exposure to minimise risk

Developed by	Skills for Health
Version number	1
Date approved	June 2010
Indicative review date	June 2012
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Skills for Health
Original URN	HCS4
Relevant occupations	Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allie; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
Suite	Healthcare Science
Key words	x-ray, accident, radioactive, protection, risk, calibration