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### Overview

This standard has broad applications and is relevant to all investigating biological samples for diagnostic, therapeutic and analytical interventions. This standard covers all types of analysers, manual tests and commercial testing kits. This standard relates to the wide selection of methods, techniques and equipment used in laboratory facilities. A related standard for point of care testing covers performing biological and physiological testing in a wide range of non laboratory settings.

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

# SFHHCS9

## Investigate biological specimens and samples

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### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 work within your level of competence, responsibility and accountability
- P2 seek advice and support from relevant others where procedures, data or an investigation is outside your level of responsibility
- P3 apply appropriate health and safety measures, infection prevention and control and personal protective equipment to minimise the risks associated with intended investigation
- P4 check the unique identifier is attached to specimen/sample and maintained throughout the procedure
- P5 check that the correct method of preparation for the type of request and specimen/sample has been used and that it is of suitable quality for testing
- P6 use appropriate quality control standards and reference ranges for the equipment to check performance parameters and seek assistance if the results are outside the expected parameters
- P7 perform the investigation following the standard protocol
- P8 take appropriate action to respond to an unexpected situation, problem or event
- P9 avoid damage, contamination or other factors which may affect the quality and integrity of the specimen/sample during the process
- P10 accurately record results of investigations in accordance with local protocols
- P11 ensure that the specimen/sample is retained in the appropriate storage location for subsequent disposal
- P12 ensure that all clinical and non clinical waste is disposed of in a safe and appropriate manner in accordance with local policies and protocols
- P13 complete all relevant records accurately and in accordance with protocols
- P14 maintain full, accurate and legible records of the investigation, in the required format and store in correct location in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 your own level of competence, authority and specialist knowledge base
- K2 the importance of maintaining the unique identifier link between specimens/samples, documentation and throughout the procedures
- K3 the range of health and safety measures, infection prevention and control and personal protective equipment and their importance, applicable to your work practice
- K4 the need for risk assessments associated with biological specimens/samples relevant to the investigations within your work practice
- K5 why it is important and the need to follow the range of relevant standard operating procedures/protocols within your work practice
- K6 the range and types of quality control and regular monitoring of quality used and how to apply these to the investigations within your level of responsibility
- K7 why it is important to deal appropriately with urgent samples
- K8 the importance of batch/lot numbers of reagents and kits and their expiry dates and why they need to be checked and recorded prior to the investigation
- K9 the importance of calibration and how to calibrate the equipment using appropriate standards and/or other quality control reagents
- K10 the importance of recognising unexpected results and what to do about them
- K11 the safe disposal of clinical and non clinical waste in accordance with the local policies and protocols
- K12 the current national legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols which affect your work practice
- K13 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: HWB8 Biomedical investigation and intervention

# SFHHCS9

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<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Original URN</b>	HCS9
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Health, Public Services and Care; Medicine and Dentistry; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allie; Health Professionals; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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<b>Suite</b>	Healthcare Science
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<b>Key words</b>	store, storage, unique, identifier
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