

SFHHPC5

Provide forensic examination and interpretation of injuries



Overview

This standard is about health care professionals examining and recording injuries in order to provide a forensic interpretation. It includes obtaining relevant background information (including details of the individual's health status) and inspecting body surfaces to make detailed records of the injury or injuries, which may later be admissible as evidence. This standard may be carried out as part of a clinical examination of an individual.

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 obtain relevant background information from police officers/staff, including the reasons for their decision to involve a healthcare professional
- P2 communicate with the individual and with police officers/staff clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- P3 explain your own role and its scope, your responsibilities and accountability, including any requirements to disclose information obtained
- P4 respect the individuals privacy, beliefs and dignity as far as practicable
- P5 balance considerations of confidentiality and privacy with the need for personal safety
- P6 confirm the individual's rights and wishes and obtain their valid consent
- P7 ensure that individuals who refuse to give consent understand the possible consequences and options
- P8 provide any emergency first aid in the best interests of the individual
- P9 arrange for individuals with signs of serious injury to be transferred urgently to hospital
- P10 explain the procedure for the examination and what is required of the individual
- P11 use appropriate questions to confirm background information, obtain details of the individual's health status and consider how this may affect the interpretation of injuries
- P12 inspect the body surface and note the presence or absence of injury
- P13 record details of each injury using body charts and illustrations to note key features
- P14 obtain any forensic samples, including photographic records if required, with the valid consent of the individual
- P15 take all possible steps to prevent contamination
- P16 ensure a specialist forensic opinion is obtained where required
- P17 refer the individual to hospital where it is found that injuries cannot be stabilised or treated in the custodial setting
- P18 keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines

SFHHPC5

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the principles of confidentiality and valid consent and the ways in which these may be compromised in a custodial setting
- K2 the consequences and available options when an individual refuses to give consent
- K3 the rules for obtaining consent from children and young people
- K4 the rules for obtaining consent from people with mental health conditions or learning difficulties
- K5 the terminology and language commonly used to describe classifications of injuries
- K6 how to recognise a possible aetiology or range of aetiologies for injuries
- K7 how to estimate the age of an injury
- K8 how to interpret indications of an individual's health status
- K9 how to arrange for individuals to be transferred to hospital
- K10 current practices in administering first aid
- K11 when and how to obtain a specialist opinion
- K12 how to communicate clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- K13 the different types of needs, concerns and beliefs individuals may have
- K14 how to distinguish between forensic records and other information obtained
- K15 how to keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines
- K16 national legislation and codes of practice governing forensic interpretation of injuries

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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: HWB2 Assessment and care planning to meet people's health and wellbeing needs

SFHHP5

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