

## SFHHPC8

### Obtain and handle forensic samples



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#### Overview

This standard is about health care professionals obtaining intimate and non-intimate forensic samples from individuals. It includes handling, labelling and storing forensic samples in a manner that will prevent contamination and allow for the samples to later be admissible as evidence. This standard may be carried out during 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 confirm that authorisation for obtaining intimate forensic samples has been obtained and recorded in the custody record
- P2 explain the procedure for obtaining intimate or non-intimate forensic samples to the individual
- P3 communicate with the individual clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- P4 explain your own role and its scope, your responsibilities and accountability
- P5 respect the individuals privacy, beliefs and dignity as far as practicable
- P6 confirm the individual's rights and wishes and obtain their written valid consent
- P7 ensure that individuals who refuse to give consent understand the possible consequences and options e.g. in some circumstances forensic samples may be taken by a person who is not medically qualified
- P8 ensure a suitable location and resources to obtain forensic samples
- P9 arrange for the presence of an appropriate adult in situations where intimate samples are to be obtained from:
  - P9.1 an individual with a mental health disorder or learning difficulties
  - P9.2 a child or young person who has consented to the appropriate adult's presence
- P10 provide advice to police officers/staff where necessary, regarding the type and number of samples required and how they should be handled
- P11 explain what is required of the individual and expected sensations or discomfort they may experience
- P12 use methods to obtain forensic samples in accordance with legal and organisational requirements and guidelines
- P13 take all possible steps to prevent contamination e.g.
  - P13.1 use the appropriate personal protective clothing
  - P13.2 change gloves when sampling different body orifices
  - P13.3 handle samples as little as possible
  - P13.4 avoid talking, coughing or sneezing over unsealed samples
- P14 retain any related items which may later be required for further analysis e.g. control samples
- P15 seal and clearly label samples in accordance with legal and organisational requirements and guidelines
- P16 ensure the forensic samples are stored in the required conditions
- P17 ensure a specialist forensic opinion is obtained where required
- P18 keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 the principles of valid consent and the ways in which an individual's ability to give consent may be compromised
- K2 how to establish the individual's best interests where there is doubt about the validity of consent
- K3 the consequences and available options when an individual refuses to give consent
- K4 when and how to obtain consent from a person with parental responsibility
- K5 the rules for obtaining consent from children and young people to allow intimate sample evidence to later be admissible as evidence
- K6 the rules for obtaining consent from people with mental health needs to allow sample evidence to later be admissible as evidence
- K7 how to communicate clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- K8 the different types of needs, concerns and beliefs individuals may have
- K9 how to keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines,
- K10 who is permitted to obtain intimate and non-intimate forensic samples
- K11 who can provide authorisation for obtaining intimate and non-intimate forensic samples
- K12 who should and should not be present when obtaining intimate forensic samples
- K13 people who may act as an appropriate adult, in accordance with national legislation and codes of practice
- K14 how to obtain different types of intimate and non-intimate forensic samples
- K15 how to recognise the need for obtaining additional samples e.g. indications of suspicious circumstances
- K16 how to prevent contamination of forensic samples
- K17 how to label forensic samples in accordance with legal and organisational requirements and guidelines
- K18 how to store types of forensic samples
- K19 how and why other items need to be retained e.g. control samples
- K20 when and how to obtain a specialist forensic opinion
- K21 safe handling techniques for equipment and materials used when obtaining forensic samples
- K22 national legislation and codes of practice governing obtaining forensic samples from detained persons

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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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<b>Developed by</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Version number</b>	1
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<b>Date approved</b>	June 2010
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<b>Indicative review date</b>	June 2012
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<b>Validity</b>	Current
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<b>Status</b>	Original
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<b>Originating organisation</b>	Skills for Health
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<b>Original URN</b>	HPC8
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<b>Relevant occupations</b>	Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
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<b>Suite</b>	Police Custody
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<b>Key words</b>	Sample, intimate, non-intimate, obtain, forensic.
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