

SFHHPC9

Obtain forensic samples from individuals detained under road traffic legislation



Overview

This standard is about healthcare professionals obtaining forensic samples of blood, urine or breath to test for the presence of alcohol or drugs from individuals detained under road traffic legislation.

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

SFHHPC9

Obtain forensic samples from individuals detained under road traffic legislation

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 give priority to procedures related to road traffic legislation where safe and practicable to do so
- P2 obtain relevant background information from police officers/staff
- P3 communicate with the individual and with police officers/staff clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- P4 explain your own role and its scope, your responsibilities and accountability, including any requirements to disclose information obtained
- P5 use appropriate questions to confirm background information and obtain details of the individual's health status
- P6 explain requirements for obtaining forensic samples and accurately answer any questions at a level and pace that is appropriate to the individual's needs
- P7 confirm the individual's rights and wishes and obtain their consent to the obtaining and/or testing of forensic samples
- P8 advise police when individuals refuse to provide a specimen, or refuse consent for forensic samples to be obtained
- P9 advise police where there may be reasonable grounds for an individual failing to provide a forensic sample due to the individual's physical and/or mental health status and any alternative types of forensic sample which could be reasonably obtained
- P10 check the relevant sampling kit is sealed and within expiry date and open the sampling kit in the presence of the individual
- P11 use methods to obtain forensic samples in accordance with legal and organisational requirements and guidelines
- P12 seal and clearly label samples in accordance with legal and organisational requirements and guidelines
- P13 ensure the samples are stored in the required conditions
- P14 recognise the limitations of your own knowledge and experience and refer to specialists where required
- P15 keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines

SFHHPC9

Obtain forensic samples from individuals detained under road traffic legislation

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the principles of 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, or is unable, to give consent
- K4 why procedures under road traffic legislation should be given priority and when it is safe to do so
- K5 medical reasons for an individual failing to provide a blood sample e.g.
 - K5.1 poor venous access
 - K5.2 needle phobia
- K6 how to assess whether an individual has a genuine needle phobia
- K7 reasons for an individual being unable to provide a urine sample e.g.
 - K7.1 drug use
 - K7.2 neurological problems
 - K7.3 presence of a catheter
- K8 embarrassment
- K9 how to distinguish between an individual being unable and unwilling to provide a specimen of breath
- K10 medical reasons which may result in an individual being unable to provide a breath sample e.g.
 - K10.1 injury
 - K10.2 respiratory problems
- K11 safe handling techniques for equipment and materials used when obtaining forensic samples
- K12 how to prevent contamination of forensic samples
- K13 how medical interventions might affect potential forensic samples
- K14 how to label forensic samples in accordance with legal and organisational requirements and guidelines
- K15 how to store types of forensic samples
- K16 safe handling techniques for equipment and materials used when obtaining forensic samples
- K17 how to communicate clearly and in ways that promote understanding
- K18 the different types of needs, concerns and beliefs individuals may have
- K19 how to keep accurate, legible and complete records in accordance with legal, professional and organisational requirements and guidelines
- K20 national legislation, legal precedent and codes of practice governing obtaining specimens from detained persons under road traffic legislation

SFHHPC9

Obtain forensic samples from individuals detained under road traffic legislation

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

SFHHPC9

Obtain forensic samples from individuals detained under road traffic legislation

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	HPC9
---------------------	------

Relevant occupations	Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
-----------------------------	---

Suite	Police Custody
--------------	----------------

Key words	Sample, obtain, forensic, alcohol, misuse, road, traffic, transport.
------------------	--
