

SFHPCS10

Carry out delegated activities in receiving, handling and dispatching clinical specimens



Overview

This standard covers carrying out activities involving clinical specimens that have been delegated to you by a registered scrubbed practitioner. This involves receiving the specimen from the scrubbed practitioner and ensuring it is placed into the correct type of transport container/media. It also involves correctly labelling the container and dispatching the specimen for processing. You will need to ensure your activities do not compromise the sterile field. The specimen may be required for investigation, diagnosis, autologous donation or transplant purposes. 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 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and other appropriate health and safety measures
 - P2 use the correct transport medium and container as directed by the supervising member of the team
 - P3 receive and handle the specimen correctly and safely in line with organisational policies and procedures
 - P4 label the specimen correctly and clearly with all relevant information, as directed by the supervising member of the team
 - P5 promptly clarify any uncertainty over requirements for handling and dispatch with a registered practitioner
 - P6 dispatch the specimen at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner to the correct destination for investigation
 - P7 ensure that your position and movements do not compromise the sterile field
 - P8 take appropriate action without delay if there is any breakdown of the sterile field
 - P9 clearly and accurately enter all relevant information in the necessary records as directed by the registered practitioner

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to carrying out delegated activities in receiving, handling and dispatching clinical specimens
- K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
- K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
- K4 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence when assisting operating department teams in perioperative procedures and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K5 the application of standard precautions to the handling and dispatch of specimens and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K6 the principles of asepsis in relation to the maintenance of the sterile field
- K7 the different types of container and transport media for specimens for:
- K8 histology
 - K8.1 haematology
 - K8.2 microbiology
 - K8.3 cytology
 - K8.4 biochemistry
 - K8.5 autologous donation
 - K8.6 transplant
- K9 ways in which the sterile field can be compromised by those working outside it, and how this can be avoided
- K10 the specific requirements for handling and transport for different types of specimens in order that they arrive in a suitable condition for investigation
- K11 the potential hazards and other consequences related to incorrect labelling or dispatch of specimens
- K12 the special requirements relating to handling frozen sections, and the circulating role in dealing with such specimens
- K13 where and how to record information on specimens
- K14 the importance of recording all information on specimens, clearly and precisely in the correct documentation
- K15 the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

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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

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Relevant occupations Health, Public Services and Care; Health and Social Care; Managers and Senior Officials; Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations; Health and Social Services Officers; Health Associate Professionals; Personal Service Occupations; Healthcare and Related Personal Services

Suite Perioperative Care Support

Key words Perioperative care, clinical specimens, receive specimens, handle specimens, dispatch specimens, sterile field.