

Overview

This standard covers obtaining specimens, testing some specimens at or near the patient's location, and forwarding some specimens for laboratory investigation.

Collection of blood specimens is not included.

Users of this standard will need to communicate effectively to meet individuals' needs and wishes and work in line with health and safety legislation, policy and practices.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1. identify and agree the roles and responsibilities of yourself and others in obtaining and testing specimens from individuals
- P2. provide support to the individual, ensuring that you respect their rights and wishes relating to their privacy, beliefs and dignity
- P3. establish consent and access information on obtaining and testing specimens from individuals
- P4. check the required preparations have been completed and stop the procedure if the necessary preparations have not been followed by the individual or staff
- P5. provide the necessary and appropriate container for the specimen to the individual
- P6. obtain specimens from individuals when they cannot do this themselves, and place the specimens in the appropriate container
- P7. ensure specimens are collected in the correct order
- P8. label specimens correctly, attach the relevant documentation, place in the relevant biohazard bags, and put them in the correct place for storage, collection or transportation
- P9. record any problems in obtaining the specimen to the appropriate member of the team without delay
- P10. perform testing using the correct process / analyser according to the specimen being tested
- P11. reassure and inform the individual of the results of the tests according to their needs or pass this on to other relevant staff members in accordance with organisational procedures
- P12. complete all relevant documentation required for obtaining and testing specimens from individuals

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1. how to access and interpret all relevant work instructions, legislation, guidelines, policies, procedures and protocols needed to obtain and test specimens from individuals
- K2. the scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability as it applies to your job role
- K3. specific procedures for reporting issues which are beyond your competence, responsibilities and accountability
- K4. the principles, practice and procedures associated with informed consent
- K5. why it is essential to check the identity of the individual
- K6. the required preparation for individuals prior to the type of specimen collection
- K7. the importance of giving clear explanations to individuals to enable them to collect their own specimens when appropriate
- K8. the adverse effects that may occur and how to respond to them
- K9. the materials and equipment required for collecting the specimen and the types of specimens that you may obtain
- K10. the different types of container, transport media and request forms for specimens appropriate to the specimen and planned test procedure
- K11. the information that is required to ensure accurate labelling of specimens and the potential hazards and other consequences related to incorrect labelling or dispatch of specimens
- K12. how to dispatch the specimen to the laboratory
- K13. the tests and investigations that are carried out at or near the patient's location
- K14. the implications the results of the tests will have on the individual
- K15. escalating concerns
- K16. how to complete and safely store all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements in relation to specimen collection

Obtain and test specimens from individuals

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Suite Clinical Health Skills

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