

Overview

This standard covers performance of recording Electrocardiograph (ECG) at rest and ambulatory Electrocardiograph (ECG) procedures.

It includes connection and disconnection of electrodes and acquisition of data ready for analysis.

The procedures may be performed in a number of care settings such as outpatient departments, ward areas and GP practices.

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/or others in performing routine Electrocardiograph (ECG) Procedures
- P2. provide support to the individual and carers and ensure health and safety measures are implemented at all times
- P3. ensure infection prevention and control methods and personal protective equipment are used
- P4. confirm the individual's identity, reason for referral and obtain their valid consent before proceeding
- P5. identify any additional needs which may affect performance of the test or influence results
- P6. ensure the comfort, safety, security and general condition of the individual and yourself throughout the procedure
- P7. obtain assistance and advice where alternative arrangements are required
- P8. confirm that the individual understands the need for recording signs and symptoms, throughout an electrocardiograph
- P9. establish suitability of characteristics and operational parameters of equipment
- P10. label documents and recording devices with organisational requirements
- P11. inform and instruct the individual on the procedure and requirements for their compliance
- P12. encourage the individual to relax and remain immobile during procedure where the electrocardiograph is performed at rest
- P13. prepare sites and position electrodes to optimise results, taking account of additional needs identified
- P14. test and run monitoring device and check quality of output
- P15. inform the individual of next action
- P16. complete all relevant documentation required for performing routine Electrocardiograph (ECG) Procedures

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 perform routine Electrocardiograph (ECG) Procedures
- 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. the needs of individuals and carers including issues relating to dignity, confidentiality, and privacy
- K6. the importance of applying standard infection control precautions to the performing of routine electrocardiographs of competence and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K7. any additional needs the individual may have which may affect performance or quality of Electrocardiograph
- K8. the importance of ensuring immobility for electrocardiograph at rest
- K9. the clinical conditions and reasons for referral for electrocardiograph examinations
- K10. the effect of postural and respiratory changes on electrocardiograph results
- K11. the structure and function of the heart
- K12. the conduction system of the heart
- K13. the normal electrocardiograph
- K14. the type and common characteristics of recording devices used in electrocardiograph procedures and how to set up and test
- K15. the relevant equipment quality assurance procedures
- K16. the purpose of electrocardiograph procedures
- K17. the correct positioning of electrodes for at rest and ambulatory electrocardiograph procedures and why this is important
- K18. potential electrical interference and sources of artefact and how to recognise them
- K19. how to check that the electrocardiograph trace is clear to enable accurate reading and analysis
- K20. the importance of accurately recording the individual's signs/symptoms during ambulatory electrocardiograph procedures

K21. how to complete and safely store all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements

Perform routine Electrocardiograph (ECG) Procedures

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