

Overview

This standard covers the collection of capillary blood samples using either manual or automated lancets, testing of the sample where this is required or sending it elsewhere for laboratory testing.

Samples may include those for blood sugar determination, haemoglobin levels and neonatal blood spot testing of the newborn.

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 obtaining and testing capillary blood samples
- P2. confirm identity of the individual and establish consent in accordance with organisational procedures
- P3. give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
- P4. ensure infection prevention and control methods and personal protective equipment are used
- P5. select and prepare the equipment and site for obtaining the capillary blood sample in line with organisational procedures
- P6. obtain the required amount of blood of the required quality, using the selected materials and equipment in accordance with organisational procedure
- P7. take appropriate action to stimulate the flow of blood if there is a problem obtaining blood from the selected site, or choose an alternative site
- P8. identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction and take appropriate action
- P9. apply pressure to the puncture site following completion to encourage closure and blood clotting
- P10. label the sample accurately and legibly in accordance with organisational procedures
- P11. place sample in the appropriate packaging with appropriate documentation and put in the appropriate place for transport or storage if required
- P12. ensure immediate transport of the sample to the relevant department when blood sampling and investigations are urgent
- P13. when appropriate, test the blood sample correctly using the appropriate method in line with organisational procedure
- P14. recognise and interpret results accurately or pass them onto an appropriate staff member for interpretation
- P15. ensure that the individual is informed if any further action is required
- P16. dispose of waste in accordance with organisational procedures
- P17. complete all relevant documentation required for obtaining and testing capillary blood samples

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 capillary blood samples
- 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 including issues relating to dignity, confidentiality, and privacy
- K6. how to obtain positive confirmation of an individual's identity before starting the procedure
- K7. the importance of confidentiality and the measures taken to ensure it is appropriately maintained
- K8. the importance of applying standard infection control precautions to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K9. how infection is spread and how to limit the spread
- K10. the structure and purpose of capillary blood vessels
- K11. blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting
- K12. the normal or expected results for particular tests and what constitutes an abnormal result
- K13. the different reasons for obtaining capillary blood samples
- K14. the concerns that individuals may have in relation to capillary blood sampling
- K15. the sites which can be used for capillary sampling and what the factors that need to be considered in selecting the best site to use including the individual's own preference
- K16. why it is important to clean the sites from which you will obtain samples, and the appropriate ways of doing this
- K17. the contra-indications which indicate that capillary sampling should be stopped and advice sought
- K18. what is likely to cause discomfort to individuals during and after the collection of capillary blood samples, and how such discomfort can be minimised
- K19. what can cause problems in obtaining capillary blood samples, what can be done to stimulate blood flow and when another site should be used

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- K20. the common adverse reactions which individuals may have how to recognise them and actions to take
- K21. the equipment and materials needed for capillary blood sampling and testing
- K22. the sorts of equipment and materials which are sensitive to environmental changes and how this affects their storage and use
- K23. which equipment and instruments are re-usable and which must be discarded after one use
- K24. how and when to label samples
- K25. where the sample is to be sent for laboratory testing:
- K26. the importance of ensuring sites for capillary blood sampling are cleaned effectively, and how and when this should be done
- K27. the process and procedure for obtaining capillary blood samples, including the correct sequence of actions
- K28. the factors involved in the procedures which could affect the quality of the blood
- K29. the importance of collecting capillary blood samples of the right quality, and how to achieve this
- K30. the complications and problems may occur during the collection of capillary blood samples, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take
- K31. how to perform relevant tests of capillary blood samples
- K32. the information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation when sending capillary blood samples to the laboratory and the possible consequences of confusing samples or incorrect labelling
- K33. how to complete and safely store all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements
- K34. how to dispose of waste in accordance with organisational procedures

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