

Overview

This standard covers the control of cross-infection by correctly preparing and dressing appropriately for work in healthcare areas. This includes effective handwashing and cleansing.

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 preparing and dressing for work in healthcare settings
- P2. remove personal clothing and fashion items that should not be worn in the workplace and store them in an appropriate safe place
- P3. check that all Personal Protective Equipment is clean, in a good state of repair and fits comfortably
- P4. select and wear the correct Personal Protective Equipment for your role and the procedure you are undertaking in line with organisational policy
- P5. where required, cover any cuts and grazes securely with an appropriate dressing
- P6. maintain a clean, neat and tidy appearance at all times
- P7. change your Personal Protective Equipment as soon as practicably possible if it becomes unsuitable for use
- P8. remove your Personal Protective Equipment safely in a way that minimises the risk of cross-infection and put it in the appropriate place for re-processing or disposal
- P9. report any shortfalls in Personal Protective Equipment stocks promptly to the appropriate person
- P10. prevent contamination of Personal Protective Equipment by only wearing it in the designated working area, and changing into personal clothing when you finish work
- P11. wear additional Personal Protective Equipment when there is an identified additional risk in accordance with organisational procedures
- P12. wash and dry your hands effectively, or use an appropriate alcoholic skin decontamination fluid in accordance with organisational procedures
- P13. dispose of waste in accordance with organisational procedures
- P14. complete all relevant documentation required for preparing and dressing for work in healthcare settings

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 prepare and dress for work in healthcare settings
- 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 importance of maintaining high standards of personal hygiene at all times
- K5. the personal (outdoor) clothing and other personal fashion items that should be removed for work in a clinical/controlled environment, and the reasons for this
- K6. the causes of infection and cross-infection
- K7. the application of standard precautions for infection control and other relevant health and safety issues
- K8. organisational policy on the use of makeup or the wearing of jewellery and covering facial and head hair where this is required
- K9. protective clothing, including uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment, and:
 - a. the reasons why particular materials are used for Personal Protective Equipment clothing
 - b. the types of protective clothing available, and their suitability in different situations
 - c. the reasons why Personal Protective Equipment clothing must be clean and undamaged when being worn
- K10. how the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment clothing contributes to infection control and how this links to standard precautions
- K11. the importance of wearing Personal Protective Equipment clothing which is comfortable
- K12. the reasons why Personal Protective Equipment clothing should not be worn outside the designated working area
- K13. the circumstances in which additional Personal Protective Equipment is needed
- K14. the types of additional Personal Protective Equipment available
- K15. the suitability of different types of additional Personal Protective Equipment for different situations
- K16. the importance of wearing adequate and appropriate additional Personal

Protective Equipment

K17. where and how to dispose of used, dirty and damaged clothing (both re-usable and single-use)

K18. the importance of effective hand washing, methods and techniques for cleaning hands and other areas of skin, and the times at which skin cleaning is necessary

K19. the importance of washing and maintain uniform/workwear at home to prevent cross-infection

K20. procedures for reporting problems with Personal Protective Equipment clothing and additional Personal Protective Equipment

K21. how to dispose of waste in accordance with organisational procedures

K22. how to complete all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements

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Prepare and dress for work in healthcare settings

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