

DK9X 04 (SFHCH S131) — Obtain and Test Capillary Blood Samples

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 ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Additional Information

External links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

Performance Criteria — What you do in your job

You must provide evidence to meet all the 16 Performance Criteria for this Unit. The Performance Criteria are grouped under headings to assist you with planning how best to meet these points.

Place the number of the piece of work where this Performance Criteria has been met in the evidence box after each criteria.

| | Performance Criteria | Evidence Number where this criteria has been met |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and any other relevant health and safety measures. | |
| 2 | Give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns. | |
| 3 | Gain valid consent to carry out the planned activity. | |
| 4 | Select and prepare the site for obtaining the capillary blood sample immediately before the blood is obtained, in line with organisational procedures. | |
| 5 | Obtain the required amount of blood of the required quality, using the selected materials and equipment into the container(s) and/or onto the appropriate strips or slides, in the correct order and in a manner which will cause minimum discomfort to the individual. | |
| 6 | 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. | |
| 7 | Apply pressure to the puncture site following completion to encourage closure and blood clotting. | |
| 8 | Promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction/event to the procedure and act accordingly. | |

| | Performance Criteria | Evidence Number where this criteria has been met |
|----|--|---|
| 9 | <p>Where the sample is to be sent for laboratory testing:</p> <p>9.1 label the sample, if it is not to be tested immediately clearly, accurately and legibly, using computer prepared labels where appropriate.</p> <p>9.2 place sample in the appropriate packaging, ensure the correct request forms are attached and put in the appropriate place for transport or storage.</p> <p>9.3 ensure immediate transport of the sample to the relevant department when blood sampling and investigations are urgent.</p> | |
| 10 | Document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records. | |
| 11 | When appropriate, test the blood sample correctly using the appropriate method in line with organisational procedure. | |
| 12 | Recognise and interpret results accurately or pass them onto an appropriate staff member for interpretation. | |
| 13 | Record results fully and accurately in the appropriate manner and place and report to the appropriate staff member. | |
| 14 | give clear and accurate information to the individual about the results of tests, if available and within the limits of your responsibility. | |
| 15 | Respond to questions from the individual clearly and accurately in an appropriate manner, level and pace or refer them to an appropriate staff member. | |
| 16 | Ensure that the individual is informed if any further action is required/the next stage in the process. | |

Knowledge and Understanding — Why and how you do what you do in your job

You must provide evidence of your knowledge and understanding to meet all the 34 knowledge points for this Unit. The knowledge points are grouped under headings to assist you with planning how best to meet them.

Place the number of the piece of work where each knowledge point has been met in the 'evidence number' box after each point.

| | Knowledge and Understanding <i>You need to know and understand:</i> | Evidence Number where this knowledge point has been met |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | 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 obtaining and testing capillary blood samples. | |
| 2 | Your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance. | |
| 3 | The duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer. | |
| 4 | The importance of obtaining positive confirmation of individuals' identity and consent before starting the procedure, and effective ways of getting positive identification. | |
| 5 | The importance of confidentiality and the measures taken to ensure it is appropriately maintained. | |
| 6 | The importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence. | |
| 7 | The importance of applying standard precautions to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples and the potential consequences of poor practice. | |

| | Knowledge and Understanding <i>You need to know and understand:</i> | Evidence Number where this knowledge point has been met |
|----|---|--|
| 8 | How infection is spread and how its spread may be limited, including how to use or apply the particular infection control measures needed when working with blood. | |
| 9 | The structure and purpose of capillary blood vessels. | |
| 10 | Blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting. | |
| 11 | The normal or expected results for particular tests and therefore what constitutes an abnormal result. | |
| 12 | The different reasons for obtaining capillary blood samples taken. | |
| 13 | The concerns that individuals may have in relation to capillary blood sampling. | |
| 14 | 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. | |
| 15 | Why it is important to clean the sites from which you will obtain samples, and the appropriate ways of doing this. | |
| 16 | The limits of your role and the circumstances in which you would need to refer to another person. | |
| 17 | The contra-indications which indicate that capillary sampling should be stopped and advice sought. | |
| 18 | What is likely to cause discomfort to individuals during and after the collection of capillary blood samples, and how such discomfort can be minimised. | |

| | Knowledge and Understanding <i>You need to know and understand:</i> | Evidence Number where this knowledge point has been met |
|----|--|--|
| 19 | What can cause problems in obtaining capillary blood samples, what can be done to stimulate blood flow and when another site should be used. | |
| 20 | The common adverse reactions/events which individuals may have to blood sampling, how to recognise them and action(s) to take if they occur. | |
| 21 | The equipment and materials are needed for capillary blood sampling and testing. | |
| 22 | The sorts of equipment and materials which are sensitive to environmental changes and how this affects their storage and use. | |
| 23 | Which equipment and instruments are re-usable and which must be discarded after one use. | |
| 24 | How and when to label samples if required. | |
| 25 | The importance of ensuring sites for capillary blood sampling are cleaned effectively, and how and when this should be done. | |
| 26 | The process and procedure for obtaining capillary blood samples, including the correct sequence of actions. | |
| 27 | The factors involved in the procedures which could affect the quality of the blood | |
| 28 | The importance of collecting capillary blood samples of the right quality, and how to achieve this. | |
| 29 | The complications and problems may occur during the collection of capillary blood samples, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take. | |
| 30 | How to perform relevant tests of capillary blood samples. | |

| | Knowledge and Understanding <i>You need to know and understand:</i> | Evidence Number where this knowledge point has been met |
|----|---|--|
| 31 | How to record test results, and the importance of clear and accurate documentation. | |
| 32 | The information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation when sending capillary blood samples to the laboratory. | |
| 33 | The importance of completing labels and documentation clearly, legibly and accurately, and the possible consequences of confusing samples or incorrect labelling. | |
| 34 | The importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff. | |

The candidate and assessor must only sign below when all Performance Criteria and knowledge points have been met.

Unit assessed as being complete

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|---|--|
| Candidate's name | |
| Candidate's signature | |
| Date submitted to Assessor as complete | |

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|-------------------------------|--|
| Assessor's name | |
| Assessor's signature | |
| Date assessed complete | |

Internal Verification

To be completed in accordance with centre's internal verifier (IV) strategy.

| Evidence for this Unit was sampled on the following date/s | Internal verifier's signature | Internal verifier's name |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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This Unit has been subject to an admin check in keeping with the centre's IV strategy.

| Date of admin check | Internal verifier's signature | Internal verifier's name |
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Unit completion confirmed

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| Internal verifier's name | |
| Internal verifier's signature | |
| Date completed | |