SFHPCS17 - SQA Code HC80 04

Receive and handle clinical specimens within the sterile field

Overview

This standard covers receiving clinical specimens collected during operative procedures. The specimen may be required for investigation, diagnosis, autologous donation or transplant purposes. You will be working in a `scrubbed' role whilst undertaking these activities. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and other appropriate health and safety measures

P2 confirm the clinician's requirements for the type of clinical specimen to be collected and that relevant consent has been obtained

P3 ensure the correct transport medium and container are available for the type of specimen being collected by the clinician/surgeon

P4 receive the specimen correctly and safely in line with organisational policies and procedures, place it in the appropriate container/transport medium, and pass it in a safe manner to the circulating practitioner, ensuring maintenance of the sterile field

P5 confirm that the circulating practitioner` labels specimen containers correctly and clearly with all relevant information and that necessary documentation has been completed

P6 confirm dispatch of the specimen to the correct destination for investigation

P7 clearly and accurately record information regarding specimen retrieval in the patient care plan/theatre records

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 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 receiving and handling clinical specimens within the sterile field

K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance

K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer

K4 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence

K5 the application of standard precautions to receiving and handling clinical specimens and the potential consequences of poor practice

K6 the types and action of pathogens specific to the surgical patient, wound infection and potential contamination of clinical specimens

K7 the potential consequences of contamination of the clinical specimen

K8 the different types of container and transport media in common use and their suitability for each type of specimen

K9 specific requirements for handling and transporting different specimen types in order that they arrive in a suitable condition for investigation

K10 hazards that may occur when receiving and handling clinical specimens whilst performing the scrubbed role and how these may be

K11 the potential hazards and consequences related to incorrect labelling or dispatch of specimens

K12 special requirements relating to handling frozen sections, and the practitioner's role in dealing with such specimens

K13 the practitioner's role in monitoring, reporting and recording information relating to clinical specimens and how this links to other members of the care team

K14 the role of diagnostic support services in relation to clinical specimens

K15 the information which should be recorded in relation to clinical specimens

K16 the importance of recording information relating to clinical specimens

K17 the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

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Additional Information

External links

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

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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

Unit assessed as being complete

Candidate's Name:	
Candidate's Signature:	
Date submitted to assessor as complete:	

Assessor's Name:	
Assessor's Signature:	
Date assessed as complete:	

Internal Verification —

to be completed in accordance with centre's IV strategy

Evidence for this Unit was sampled on the following date/s:	**IV's Signature**	**IV's Name**

This Unit has been subject to an admin check in keeping with the centre's IV strategy.

Date of admin check	**IV's Signature**	**IV's Name**

Unit completion confirmed

IV's Name:	
IV's Signature:	
Date complete:	