

Unit Title

GE4 Test for substance use – F2AF 04

Summary

For this unit you need to test individuals to see if they have been using substances, such as alcohol and controlled drugs.

There are three elements:

- GE4.1 Prepare to test for substance use
- GE4.2 Take samples for testing
- GE4.3 Communicate and record the results of testing

Target Group

This unit is relevant for all workers in the Justice sector and, in particular, the substance misuse workforce.

This unit was developed by Skills for Health (DANOS unit AE1).

Element

GE4.1 Prepare to test for substance use

Performance Criteria

To meet the standard, you

- 1 accurately identify those individuals to be tested for substance misuse
- 2 schedule tests in accordance with requirements
- 3 confirm that the environment in which the tests are to be carried out, and the procedures to be used comply with health, safety and security policies
- 4 make arrangements for tests to be witnessed, where required
- 5 confirm that those involved in carrying out tests are competent and fully understand their roles and the procedures to be followed
- 6 confirm the availability of all necessary equipment for testing

Element

GE4.2 Take samples for testing

Performance Criteria

To meet the standard, you

- 1 confirm that individuals being tested understand the purpose of the tests, their rights, and any consequences of not submitting to the testing procedures
- 2 obtain any necessary consent for testing procedures from individuals, or from their carers or guardians where required
- 3 explain clearly and precisely to individuals what they have to do to provide their samples
- 4 provide opportunities for individuals to describe their substance use and explain possible false positives before they are tested
- 5 take samples according to clinical and organisational policies and procedures
- 6 ensure that the samples are authentic and have not been contaminated
- 7 promptly refer to relevant people if you suspect that samples are not authentic or have been contaminated
- 8 test samples, or refer them for testing, in accordance with clinical and organisational policies and procedures
- 9 follow supplier's/manufacture's instructions for use of equipment, where appropriate
- 10 dispose of samples safely, in accordance with clinical and organisational policies and procedures

Element

GE4.3 Communicate and record the results of testing

Performance Criteria

To meet the standard, you

- 1 communicate the outcomes of the tests to individuals, and their carers or guardians where required, and ensure they understand the consequences
- 2 respect individuals' rights and the required standards of confidentiality
- 3 keep full and accurate records of tests and make reports in accordance with your organisation's policy and procedures

Unit

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Scope

This section provides guidance on possible areas to be covered in this unit.

Individuals

- a. Adults
- b. young people
- c. men
- d. women
- e. posing a low risk of infection
- f. posing a high risk of infection
- g. with special needs

Requirements

- a. prescribing
- b. legal
- c. organisational

Sample

- a. breath
- b. urine
- c. blood
- d. hair
- e. saliva

Unit

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Knowledge and Understanding

To meet the standard, you need to know and understand

Legislation and organisational policy and procedures

- 1 the legal requirements relating to testing for substance misuse
- 2 health, safety and security policies and how to ensure the testing environment and procedures meets these
- 3 whom to refer to if you suspect that samples are not authentic or have been contaminated

Communication and interpersonal relationships

- 1 the principles and processes of effective communication and how to apply them

Information handling

- 1 the principles and standards of confidentiality and how to apply them
- 2 the importance of keeping full and accurate records and how to do so

Substance misuse

- 1 the purpose of testing and the consequences of non-compliance for individuals
- 2 the importance of accurately identifying those individuals to be tested for substance use and how to do so
- 3 the competences required of those involved in testing for substance use
- 4 clinical and organisational procedures for testing for substance use
- 5 when testing needs to be witnessed and how to make appropriate arrangements
- 6 the importance of obtaining consent for substance testing, how to do so and when carer and/or guardians need to be involved
- 7 the possible causes of false readings in the types of tests carried out
- 8 the equipment required for testing for substance use and how to use this in accordance with supplier's/manufacture's instructions
- 9 how to dispose of samples safely

Values

- 1 individuals' rights when being tested for substance use