
Overview

This standard covers the skills you need to draw blood samples from patients for laboratory investigations. You must work to the relevant standard operating procedures, legislation and organisational policy.

You must carry out all the necessary preparations which will include preparing the work area so that it is a safe condition to carry out the procedure and ensuring that materials equipment and other resources that you need, are available and in a safe and useable condition. After the procedure you must dispose of any waste appropriately, leave your work area in an acceptable condition and complete all the necessary paperwork and documentation.

Your underpinning knowledge will provide a good understanding of your work including the approach to drawing blood specimens and dealing with any problems.

Who this standard is for

The standard is recommended for all staff, but particularly new recruits and junior employees.

Performance

criteria

- You must be able to:
- P1 ensure that your work is carried out in accordance with workplace procedures to protect yourself and others
 - P2 confirm the patient's identity and obtain their consent prior to the procedure
 - P3 select and prepare the correct equipment and materials for the tests requested
 - P4 draw blood specimens from patients and deal with any adverse reactions
 - P5 label and package blood specimens correctly
 - P6 transport and store blood specimens in correct location
 - P7 communicate the required information about the work done, to authorised people, in accordance with departmental and organisational procedures

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the health and safety requirements of the area in which you are carrying out the activities
- K2 the standard operating procedures, as set down in local laboratory manuals
- K3 the limits of your own authority and to whom you should report if you have problems that you cannot resolve
- K4 the importance and method of gaining confirmation of patient identity and consent
- K5 the requirements of different sample tubes and labelling/numbering protocols for blood samples
- K6 the anatomical and physiological locations used to take blood from patients
- K7 how to reassure patients and seek assistance when necessary
- K8 the procedure to be followed in an emergency situation (continued blood flow, patient fainting)
- K9 the procedures to be followed when dealing with routine, urgent, broken/leaking specimens and disposing of waste and contaminated equipment
- K10 the methods used for packaging and transporting blood specimens
- K11 factors which may adversely affect the integrity of a blood specimen during storage or transit

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