

About this Unit

This standard concerns the transportation of healthcare waste, including sharps, either from the place of storage on-site/off-site to a place of final destruction. This standard applies to all health and social care settings, including in the community and domiciliary settings and ambulance vehicles.

Healthcare waste is produced as a result of healthcare activities and includes potentially hazardous substances that may cause infection to any person coming into contact with them. Different types of hazardous waste are categorised under European legislation, but the implementation of the Hazardous Waste Directive and the European Waste Catalogue may differ in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and you should follow the national policies, including descriptions of types of waste, that apply to your country.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Your **knowledge and understanding** will be specifically related to legal requirements and codes of practice and conduct applicable to your job, and the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework. This will relate to your work activities; the job you are doing, and the setting, eg in hospital and community, domiciliary, residential care, and the individuals you are working with.

Values — the values underpinning this Unit are embedded within the 2009 NHS Code of Conduct for Health Care Support Workers. These are stated in full within the Assessment Strategy and Guidance document for the awards.

Key Words and Concepts — a glossary of definitions, key words and concepts used in this Unit is contained in the Assessment Strategy and Guidance document.

In occupational standards it is quite common to find words or phrases used which you will be familiar with, but which, in the detail of the standards, may be used in a very particular way. **You should read the Assessment Strategy and Guidance document before you begin working with the standards and refer to it if you are unsure about anything in the Unit.**

Specific Evidence Requirements for the Unit

It is essential that you adhere to the Evidence Requirements for this Unit

SPECIFIC EVIDENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS UNIT
Simulation:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Simulation is NOT permitted for any part of this Unit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The following forms of evidence ARE mandatory:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Direct Observation: Your assessor or expert witness must observe you in real work activities. Their confirmation of your practice will provide evidence for a significant amount of the performance criteria in this Unit. For example, how you used the correct protective equipment and sealed, documented and tagged the waste. Your assessor may use a checklist to record this. ◆ Professional discussion: Describes your actions in a particular situation and reflect on the reason(s) why you practice that way. For example, how you dealt with a spillage and what policies you adhered to.
Competence of performance and knowledge could also be demonstrated using a variety of evidence from the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Reflective Account: These are written pieces of work which allow you to reflect on the course of action you took in a specific situation to identify any learning from the piece of work and to describe what you might do differently in the light of your new knowledge. ◆ Questioning/professional discussion: May be used to provide evidence of knowledge, legislation, policies and procedures which cannot be fully evidenced through direct observation or reflective accounts. In addition your assessor/mentor or expert witness may also ask questions to clarify aspects of your practice. ◆ Expert Witness: A designated expert witness, eg a senior member of staff, may provide a direct observation of your practice, or record a professional discussion they have held with you on a specific piece of practice. ◆ Witness Testimony: Can be a confirmation or authentication of the activities described in your evidence which your assessor or mentor has not seen. ◆ Products: These can be any record that you would normally use within your normal role, eg you should not put confidential records in your portfolio; they can remain where they are normally stored and be checked by your assessor and internal verifier. ◆ Prior Learning: You may be able to use recorded prior learning from a course of training you have attended within the last two years. Discussion on the relevance of this should form part of your assessment plan for each Unit. ◆ Simulation: There may be times when you have to demonstrate you are competent in a situation that does not arise naturally through your work role, eg dealing with violent or abusive behaviour. The Evidence Requirements in each Unit provide specific guidance regarding the use of simulation.
GENERAL GUIDANCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Prior to commencing this Unit you should agree and complete an assessment plan with your assessor which details the assessment methods you will be using, and the tasks you will be undertaking to demonstrate your competence. ◆ Evidence must be provided for ALL of the performance criteria, ALL of the knowledge. ◆ The evidence must reflect the policies and procedures of your workplace and be linked to current legislation, values and the principles of best practice within the Health Care sector. This will include the National Service Standards for your areas of work. ◆ All evidence must relate to your own work practice.

FN7P 04 (IPC8) Minimise the risk of infection when transporting and storing healthcare waste

KNOWLEDGE SPECIFICATION FOR THIS UNIT

Competent practice is a combination of the application of skills and knowledge informed by values and ethics. This specification details the knowledge and understanding required to carry out competent practice in the performance described in this Unit.

When using this specification **it is important to read the knowledge requirements in relation to expectations and requirements of your job role.**

You need to provide evidence for ALL knowledge points listed below. There are a variety of ways this can be achieved so it is essential that you read the 'knowledge evidence' section of the Assessment Guidance.

You need to show that you know, understand and can apply in practice:	Enter Evidence Numbers
1 Relevant standard infection control precautions legislation and policies.	
2 Health and safety regulations covering your area of work.	
3 The COSHH regulations concerning hazardous substances.	
4 The chain of infection.	
5 How to access facilities for hand hygiene.	
6 Techniques for maintaining hand hygiene.	
7 The personal protective equipment to use for activities within your job role.	
8 How to safely put on, remove and dispose of personal protective equipment.	
9 How to handle and dispose of sharps safely.	
10 How to segregate different types of waste.	
11 The different colour-coded bags and waste containers available and the correct use of each.	
12 Principles of secure storage of healthcare waste.	
13 Your own role and responsibilities, and the responsibilities of others.	
14 How to complete the records required in your area of activity.	
15 How to report adverse events, accidents and incidents.	
16 How and when to report issues that are outside your job role.	

Performance Criteria		DO	RA	EW	Q	P	WT	PD
1	Use appropriate personal protective equipment when you are handling, transporting or storing healthcare waste in accordance with local policies.							
2	Handle all waste containers with care, and: (a) hold them away from your body to avoid contamination or injury (b) handle bags by the neck only (c) use good handling and moving techniques (d) use appropriate equipment specifically designed for transporting waste, where it is available, such as trolleys or vehicles							
3	Handle waste containers securely, to minimise the risks of breaking or tearing them.							
4	Remove containers from the clinical setting in accordance with local health and safety policies when they are sufficiently full.							
5	Ensure containers are securely sealed, and correctly documented, colour-coded or tagged for the origin of the waste they contain, using recognised codes.							
6	Immediately ensure that steps are taken to safely clean and remove any spillages.							
7	Transport the containers to a designated safe, segregated, lockable storage area, without opening them, avoiding contact with clean surfaces.							
8	Segregate waste in storage following local policies, and store all waste containers in an upright position.							
9	Ensure any trolleys or vehicles you have used to transport the waste are cleaned after use and check that they are fit-for-purpose before re-use, isolating and reporting any that are not.							
10	Remove and dispose of any personal protective equipment you have used when transporting and storing waste, and perform hand hygiene promptly.							
11	Seek medical assistance immediately if you are exposed to potentially infectious waste, and report the incident in accordance with local policies.							

Performance Criteria	DO	RA	EW	Q	P	WT	PD
12 Should you encounter problems with the facilities and supplies for hand hygiene that you are unable to remedy, inform the person responsible for them and ask them to take action.							
13 Report any adverse events, incidents or accidents concerning the storage of healthcare waste immediately, following local procedures.							

DO = Direct Observation

RA = Reflective Account

Q = Questions

EW = Expert Witness

P = Product (Work)

WT = Witness Testimony

PD = Professional Discussion

To be completed by the candidate

I SUBMIT THIS AS A COMPLETE UNIT

Candidate's name:

Candidate's signature:

Date:

To be completed by the assessor

It is a shared responsibility of both the candidate and assessor to claim evidence, however, it is the responsibility of the assessor to ensure the accuracy/validity of each evidence claim and make the final decision.

I CERTIFY THAT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE HAS BEEN PRODUCED TO MEET ALL THE ELEMENTS, PCS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THIS UNIT.

Assessor's name:

Assessor's signature:

Date:

Assessor/Internal verifier feedback

To be completed by the internal verifier if applicable

This section only needs to be completed if the Unit is sampled by the internal verifier

Internal verifier's name:

Internal verifier's signature:

Date: