

About this Unit

It has been shown that used linen in healthcare settings can harbour large numbers of microorganisms. This standard concerns the removal of used and soiled linen in such a way as to minimise the risk of contamination and cross infection. It applies in all health and social care settings, including community and domiciliary settings, and ambulance vehicles.

This standard does not cover the removal of radioactive linen or linen from patients with known infectious diseases, where additional precautions will be required based on a local assessment of risk and advice from the Infection Control Team.

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 gathered all necessary equipment and supplies, and the disposal of these. 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 and why you separate contaminated linen and which local policy relates to this and how you communicate with individuals.
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.

FP0D 04 (IPC9) Minimise the risks of spreading infection when removing used linen

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 appropriate personal protective equipment to use when handling linen.	
8 How to safely put on, remove and dispose of personal protective equipment.	
9 How to segregate and bag different categories of linen.	
10 The different colour-coded bags and waste containers available and the correct use of each.	
11 How to distinguish between single-use, single-patient use, and reusable equipment and how to dispose of them, and launder/clean or store them, safely.	
12 Your own role and responsibilities, and the responsibilities of others.	
13 How to complete the records required in your area of activity.	
14 How to report adverse events, accidents and incidents.	
15 How and when to report issues that are outside your job role.	

Performance Criteria		DO	RA	EW	Q	P	WT	PD
		1	Perform hand hygiene, cover any abrasions and cuts and put on personal protective equipment in accordance with the local infection control policy.					
2	Assemble the equipment and supplies required to safely remove used linen and move the equipment as close as possible to the point of use.							
3	Where you are removing linen with a patient/client present, explain to them what you are going to do, proceed in such a way as to maintain their dignity and safety throughout, and ensure they are made comfortable at the end of the procedure.							
4	Ensure that no extraneous items such as patient belongings, used sharps or other clinical equipment are inadvertently discarded with the used linen.							
5	Remove the used linen, avoiding shaking, contact with clothing, the floor or other surfaces, and place each item in the designated receptacle, taking care not to wrap linen together, not to re-handle it and not to over-fill the receptacle.							
6	Place linen which is contaminated with blood or other body fluids into a water soluble bag to prevent further handling and secure it using a neck tie, and place the water soluble bag into a coloured-coded secondary bag, appropriately tagged in accordance with local policy.							
7	Place filled bags in the designated area for collection and check regularly to ensure used linen is collected in accordance with the agreed schedule.							
8	Place any disposable personal protective equipment in the appropriate waste bin immediately after use and perform hand hygiene.							

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: