

FP16 04 (CHS184) Maintain chain of custody (specimens and samples)

About this Unit

This standard has a broad application and deals with the legal requirements in maintaining the chain of custody of specimens and samples. This will normally be for forensic specimens/samples and include: substance misuse including drugs and alcohol, sexual abuse, alcohol levels.

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. ◆ The following forms of evidence ARE mandatory: ◆ 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 identify and deal with samples and any special requirements you need to consider. 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, why the way you communicate information to others is important.
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.

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 statutory, regulatory and legislative requirements and guidance.	
2 The relevant standard operating procedures, policies and their importance.	
3 Your limitations to practice and an understanding of the importance of working within these in a clinical context.	
4 How to communicate with individuals to explain procedures and reassure, including those with special needs.	
5 The rationale for chain of custody and its importance for the chain of evidence used in legal proceedings.	
6 Recognition of types of specimens/samples that require the chain of custody process.	
7 The importance of an appropriate and authorised person taking responsibility for the specimen/sample at the point of receipt.	
8 The importance of the unique identifier.	
9 The importance of maintaining chain of custody documentation throughout the different stages of a specimens/samples life cycle, ie from receipt to final report and specimen/sample storage.	
10 The correct location for the storage of chain of custody specimens/samples and the processing pathways.	
11 Relevant standard operating procedures, statutory, regulatory and legislative requirements and guidance, and their importance.	
12 Action to be taken when the chain of custody integrity is compromised.	
13 A working understanding of the validity of the results when the chain of custody cannot be ascertained.	
14 Action to be taken when equipment and/or environments compromise the chain of custody sample/specimen.	
15 The importance of working effectively to make efficient use of resources and meet prioritisation needs, especially with regard to urgent specimens/samples.	

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Performance Criteria		DO	RA	EW	Q	P	WT	PD
1	Communicate required information to others clearly, accurately and in a timely fashion.							
2	Ensure chain of custody documentation is completed, signed, timed and dated at each stage of the specimen/sample process.							
3	Ensure the unique identifier is attached to the specimen/sample and its documentation and is retained throughout sample/specimen life.							
4	Ensure specimen/sample is obtained with a chain of custody observation.							
5	Identify chain of custody specimens/samples with special process, storage and retention requirements and react appropriately.							
6	Store the chain of custody specimen/sample in appropriate container, location, condition, and time period.							
7	Recognise and respond appropriately when chain of custody specimen/sample or the processed stage integrity is compromised.							

DO = Direct Observation

EW = Expert Witness

PD = Professional Discussion

RA = Reflective Account

P = Product (Work)

Q = Questions

WT = Witness Testimony

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: