

About this Unit

This is a broad based standard which is applicable to all forms of microscopic investigation except electron microscopy (this is covered by specific Healthcare Science standards). It covers the use of a microscope by all healthcare professionals in a variety of clinical settings. Users of this standard will need to ensure practice reflects up to the 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, your assessor may observe you check the specimen/sample is suitable for investigation once it is on the stage. ◆ Professional discussion: Describes your actions in a particular situation and reflect on the reason(s) why you practice that way. For example, your assessor may ask you to explain using an example from practice, factors that may influence the successful microscopic investigation of a sample/specimen and their significance.
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 Methods of ensuring unique identification of specimens and the importance of doing so.	
2 The relevant statutory, regulatory and legislative requirements and guidance.	
3 Methods of preparation of specimens/samples for microscopic investigation.	
4 The correct equipment, methods of preparation and calibration for different circumstances and microscopic techniques.	
5 The importance of ensuring that the equipment is left in the appropriate condition once investigation is complete.	
6 Differing types of microscopic investigation methods and their purpose.	
7 Possible findings from microscopic investigations, including biological or mineral structures, abnormal or normal cells, and artefacts.	
8 Factors that may influence the successful microscopic investigation of a sample/specimen and their significance.	
9 The importance of working effectively to make efficient use of resources and meet prioritisation needs, especially with regard to urgent samples/specimens.	
10 The relevant standard operating procedures and QA methods and their importance.	
11 Contingency and risk assessments relating to microscopic investigation of specimens/samples.	

FP1F 04 (CHS190) Investigate at a microscopic level

Performance Criteria		DO	RA	EW	Q	P	WT	PD
1	Follow the appropriate standing operating procedures, policies, protocols and quality assurance methods for the type of microscopic investigation and biological containment level requirements.							
2	Confirm the equipment to be used is fit for purpose and practice.							
3	Place the material to be investigated as appropriate for the microscopy technique being used.							
4	Check the specimen/sample is suitable for investigation once it is on the stage.							
5	Use the microscope appropriately and examine the required fields identified, looking for abnormal/normal structures, abnormal/normal appearance or artefacts as appropriate.							
6	Record the findings of your investigation using appropriate documentation processes and in accordance with confidentiality requirements.							
7	Take appropriate action to respond to an unexpected situation, problem or event.							
8	Remove the specimen/sample once the investigation is complete and store or dispose of it as appropriate.							
9	Ensure that the microscope is left in a suitable condition for future use.							

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: