



Australian Government

MSL975072 Use surgical cut-up techniques for non-complex tissue specimens

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release 1. New unit.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to prepare for and complete surgical cut-up of non-complex specimens as defined by the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC). It involves the processing of specimens which may involve both selection and cutting, with a focus on the ability to interpret clinical information, evaluate tissue and select or sample correctly and the use of knife skills.

This unit applies to scientists, technical officers and laboratory technicians working in anatomical pathology laboratories. The scope of work to be undertaken is clearly described in the laboratory's manual of procedures. The unit of competency is based on the assumption that technical personnel would perform work under the supervision of competent scientific and/or medical staff. The pathologist has the ultimate responsibility for the handling of a specimen regardless of who has performed the cut-up.

No licensing or certification requirements exist at the time of publication. However, regulations and/or external accreditation requirements for laboratory operations exist, so local requirements should be checked. Relevant legislation, industry standards and codes of practice within Australia must also be applied.

Pre-requisite Unit

MSL954006 Relate anatomical and physiological features to laboratory samples

MSL974038 Use techniques to complete simple tissue specimen transfers

Competency Field

Testing

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Prepare equipment for specimen cut-up	1.1 Set up and confirm integrity of instruments and consumables for safe, contaminant-free and efficient transfer process 1.2 Load and handle blade safely

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	1.3 Check ventilation system is operational and adequate for the task and report any deficiencies in accordance with workplace procedures
2. Interpret clinical information	2.1 Confirm patient identification in accordance with workplace procedures 2.2 Review clinical notes linked to the specimen and identify information relevant to the surgical cut-up process 2.3 Critically evaluate information and determine its application to the processing of the individual specimen 2.4 Determine requirements for selective sampling based on clinical information
3. Determine and record macroscopic descriptions	3.1 Weigh, count and measure tissue specimens in accordance with specimen-specific workplace procedures 3.2 Record accurate details of tissue specimen external gross features, using appropriate terminology and in accordance with specimen-specific workplace procedures 3.3 Record or capture visual representation of specimen, clearly presenting required features based on specimen-specific workplace procedures 3.4 Identify specimen readiness for cut-up and record any special instructions to be implemented prior to dissection
4. Dissect non-complex specimens	4.1 Follow specimen-specific workplace procedures for specimen orientation, selection and marking 4.2 Hold and use instruments safely and in accordance with their intended purpose 4.3 Dissect specimens in accordance with the cut-up approach for the sample type, clinical setting and the method of tissue selection as specified by workplace procedures 4.4 Record accurate details of internal gross features of dissected specimen using appropriate terminology and in accordance with specimen-specific workplace procedures 4.5 Record or visually capture details of any significant findings using appropriate terminology and in accordance with specimen-specific workplace procedures 4.6 Accurately record cassette contents and block key information 4.7 Retain specimen and/or container and dispose of waste in

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	accordance with workplace procedures 4.8 Follow workplace procedures for safe removal and disposal of sharps 4.9 Follow workplace procedures for safe disposal of chemical and biological waste 4.10 Use decontamination techniques to prevent cross-contamination 4.11 Identify specimen readiness for processing and record any special instructions to be implemented prior to processing 4.12 Select appropriate processor program for samples

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

MSL Laboratory Operations Companion Volume Implementation Guide is available from VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=5c63a03b-4a6b-4ae5-9560-1e3c5f462baa>