



Australian Government

HLTOTH007 Apply and remove traction

Release: 1

HLTOTH007 Apply and remove traction

Modification History

No equivalent unit.

Application

This unit of competency describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to apply and remove traction.

The unit applies to orthopaedic technologists who work in healthcare settings, including operating theatres, emergency departments, wards and out of care client departments.

Work is performed at the request of, and in consultation with, medical staff. Some discretion and judgement are required, and individuals take responsibility for the quality of their outputs.

All activities are carried out in accordance with organisational policies, procedures and infection control guidelines.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State or Territory legislation, Australian standards and industry codes of practice.

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Orthopaedic Technology

Unit Sector

Health

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1. Prepare to apply and remove traction.
 - 1.1. Receive and interpret traction application and removal instructions in referral documentation and seek clarification if required.
 - 1.2. Identify safety hazards and risks, assess risks and implement risk control strategies to minimise risks to client and self.
 - 1.3. Perform hand hygiene and use personal protective equipment (PPE) according to work health and safety and infection control procedures.
 - 1.4. Source information through delegated subjective and clinical assessments to determine client condition, individual needs, to identify precautions and potential complications.
 - 1.5. Provide relevant and timely feedback including liaising with medical practitioner for conditions requiring immediate review.
 - 1.6. Liaise with healthcare team to discuss subjective and objective findings and confirm instructions.
 - 1.7. Explain traction application and removal procedure to client, provide opportunities to ask questions and discuss areas of concern.
 - 1.8. Obtain client consent to proceed with traction application and removal.
 - 1.9. Observe wound and pin site care and identify issues for referral to medical practitioner.
2. Apply traction techniques.
 - 2.1. Assemble equipment and inspect to confirm it is clean and in working order in accordance with manufacturer specifications.
 - 2.2. Communicate with clients in a caring and respectful manner.
 - 2.3. Monitor client to identify and manage client anxiety.
 - 2.4. Position client for correct anatomical positioning of limb and confirm client comfort and safety.
 - 2.5. Refresh and maintain clean skin.
 - 2.6. Select and use equipment and traction techniques to apply and remove traction according to instructions.
 - 2.7. Check and confirm traction to meet instructions and individual client needs.

3. Undertake post traction application and removal procedures.
 - 3.1. Review client condition and identify precautions and potential complications.
 - 3.2. Provide written and verbal advice for care of traction and limb according to referral from the healthcare team and discuss client concerns.
 - 3.3. Identify and report client self-management concerns to healthcare team and arrange support within limitations of job role.
 - 3.4. Complete clinical records according to documentation procedures.
4. Clean working environment.
 - 4.1. Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene according to work health and safety and infection control procedures.
 - 4.2. Dispose of waste according to waste management procedures.
 - 4.3. Clean, sanitise and store equipment according to manufacturer specifications.
 - 4.4. Clean work surfaces according to infection control procedures.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

SKILLS	DESCRIPTION
Oral communication skills to:	- ask open and closed questions and actively listen to determine and meet needs of client - communicate with people from diverse backgrounds - manage conflict.
Numeracy skills to:	read, use and discuss spatial and measurement information in referrals, x-rays, CT scans and MRI scans.
Teamwork skills to:	collaborate and cooperate with multidisciplinary teams and healthcare professionals.
Technology skills to:	access and record clinical records and referrals.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>

Assessment Requirements for HLTOTH007 Apply and remove traction

Modification History

No equivalent unit.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- apply and remove traction including:
 - manual
 - skin adhesive
 - skin non-adhesive.

The applying and removing traction for each of the above on one occasion must include:

- interpreting referrals, sourcing information with the healthcare team and following instructions within the healthcare setting
- reviewing, treating, advising and referring clients:
 - paediatrics
 - adults
- selecting, using and maintaining equipment:
 - eye protection equipment
 - felt and calico
 - foot plate
 - measuring tape and goniometer
 - medical adhesive tape
 - safety pins
 - scissors
 - skin traction assembly kits
 - traction attachments
 - traction bed
 - traction ropes and pulleys
 - traction weights and water bags
- documenting clinical records.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- procedures relevant to applying and removing traction:

- client confidentiality and privacy
- client consent
- duty of care
- infection control
- inventory
- work health and safety
- role and responsibilities and boundaries of responsibilities relevant to applying and removing traction
- anatomy and physiology relevant to applying and removing traction
- methods for interpreting radiological findings and features of x-rays, CT scans and MRI scans relating to orthopaedic devices and the presenting condition
- conditions for referral of clients for immediate review by a medical practitioner:
 - evidence of infection
 - intense localised pain
 - neurovascular status outside normal limits
 - wound breakdown and deterioration
- individual client needs:
 - developmental stage including paediatrics and adults
 - in clients and out clients
 - functional requirements and restrictions
 - mobilisation difficulties and restrictions
 - level of anxiety
 - physical anomalies
 - religious and cultural beliefs
 - environment and climate
- pathology and assessment of client conditions:
 - allergies
 - mechanism of injury
 - interference
 - non-union fracture
 - oedematous extremity
 - wires, pins, external fixtures and surgical wounds
 - medical history and co-morbidities
 - skin condition including oedema, blisters, pressure areas, broken skin, fragile skin and wound breakdown
- precaution types, characteristics and resolution:
 - diseases which may contribute to loss of bone density and reduction in bone strength
 - fluid retention
 - areas of broken skin
- complication types, characteristics and resolution:

- broken pins and wires
- contact dermatitis and allergic response
- failure to achieve acceptable length including insufficient weights
- failure to achieve alignment
- loss of apposition due to over distraction including excessive weights
- loss of movement and function due to immobilisation
- neurovascular complications
- pressure areas
- reduced range of movement and function of joint
- secondary infection including pin site etc.
- pneumonia
- constipation
- contra-indication types, characteristics and resolution:
 - fragile and anaesthetic skin
 - osteoporosis
 - rheumatoid arthritis
 - infection
 - pregnancy
 - respiratory and circulatory problems
 - claustrophobia
 - cardiovascular disease
 - joint problems
- traction type and purpose:
 - manual
 - skin adhesive
 - skin non-adhesive
- traction techniques:
 - anatomical positioning
 - bone manipulation
 - balanced suspension
 - protective cover for broken skin with aseptic technique
- traction equipment purpose, selection, safe use and maintenance:
 - eye protection equipment
 - felt and calico
 - foot plate
 - measuring tape and goniometer
 - medical adhesive tape
 - safety pins
 - scissors
 - skin traction assembly kits

- traction attachments
- traction bed
- traction ropes and pulleys
- traction weights and water bags
- medications relevant to traction and future care
- types of client advice:
 - limb, body and pin site care
 - mobilisation exercises and routines
 - traction care
- clinical record requirements
- medical terminology relevant to traction.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a real workplace with real patients in a clinical environment with the addition of simulations and scenarios with real people where the full range of contexts and situations cannot be provided in the workplace.

Where simulation is used, it must reflect real working conditions in a clinical environment by modelling industry operating conditions and contingencies, as well as using suitable facilities, equipment and resources.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- procedures relevant to applying and removing traction
- clients listed in the Performance Evidence
- orthopaedic devices listed in the Performance Evidence
- equipment listed in the Performance Evidence
- materials listed in the Performance Evidence
- aids listed in the Performance Evidence
- personal protective equipment (PPE)
- manufacturer's instructions for all equipment and materials.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations' requirements for assessors; and have current clinical experience working as an Orthopaedic Technologist or Technician providing services to the general public.

Links

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