



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

HLTCT404C Apply and remove traction

Release: 1

HLTCT404C Apply and remove traction

Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Descriptor

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to apply and remove traction

Application of the Unit

Application

Application and removal of traction includes the ability to understand the client's diagnosis to evaluate the purpose and effectiveness of maintaining the traction therefore achieving the ultimate purpose and achieve alignment

Work is performed at the request of, and in consultation with, medical staff but requires a range of well-developed skills where some discretion and judgment is required and individuals take responsibility for the quality of their outputs

Traction application and removal may occur in various locations within the hospital environment eg. operating theatres, emergency department, wards, and private homes

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

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not Applicable

Pre-Requisites

Not Applicable

Employability Skills Information

Employability Skills

This unit contains Employability Skills

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements define the essential outcomes of a unit of competency.

The Performance Criteria specify the level of performance required to demonstrate achievement of the Element. Terms in italics are elaborated in the Range Statement.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

1. Prepare to apply/remove traction

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- 1.1 Receive request and if in doubt confirm the requirements for application/removal of *traction* with *relevant personnel*
- 1.2 Assemble and check *equipment* for applying/removing traction and check to ensure that it is in clean and in working order
- 1.3 *Assess client's condition* and identify *precautions* or potential *complications* of application
- 1.4 Explain procedure to client and obtain client consent/agreement
- 1.5 Provide opportunities for the client to ask questions and discuss areas of concern
- 1.6 Meet the *comfort and safety needs of the client*
- 1.7 Review wound and pin site care

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA****2. Apply/remove traction**

- 2.1 Position area to which traction is to be applied according to industry best practice
- 2.2 Identify client's specific needs in relation to application/removal
- 2.3 Apply/remove traction according to instructions and to meet the client's needs
- 2.4 Meet the comfort and safety needs of the client and applicator
- 2.5 Complete *documentation*

3. Undertake post application/removal procedures

- 3.1 Re-assess the client on completion of the procedure
- 3.2 Provide written and verbal *advice* to client and carer (if at home) regarding care of traction and limb
- 3.3 Arrange *appropriate support* for client

3. Clean working environment

- 4.1 Dispose of waste in accordance with waste management policies
- 4.2 Clean equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and stored safely
- 4.3 Clean work surfaces in accordance with infection control guidelines

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level required for this unit.

Essential knowledge:

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

This includes knowledge of:

- Anatomical positioning for the application of traction
- Anatomy and physiology relevant to traction application/removal
- Awareness and resolution of complications e.g. pressure sores associated with traction
- Basic medical terminology relevant to traction application/removal
- Confidentiality requirements of client information
- Current standards and best practice relevant to traction application and removal
- Interpretation of documentation relating to application of traction
- Methodology of traction and balanced suspension
- Organisation policy and procedures, including Infection control and OHS
- Precautions and complications related to traction application and removal
- Purpose and principles of application of traction
- Traction applications

Essential skills:

It is critical that the candidate demonstrate the ability to

- Comply with policies and procedures including those of OHS and infection control
- Select appropriate material and use correct techniques for application of traction
- Apply current standards and best practice to meet duty of care to client
- Communicate effectively with clients in relation to the procedure and manage clients' anxiety level
- Demonstrate all steps that must be taken in the correct and safe usage of equipment
- Recognise boundaries of responsibilities and refer problems to supervisor or other appropriate health professional

continued ...

Essential skills (contd):

In addition, the candidate must be able to effectively do the task outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage the task and manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

This includes the ability to:

- Apply current standards and best practice relevant to traction application and removal
- Communicate with people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds
- Correctly and safely apply traction
- Correctly position limbs for the application of traction
- Deal with conflict
- Manipulate bones to achieve correct alignment

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Solve problems including an ability to use available resources
- Take into account opportunities to address waste minimisation, environmental responsibility and sustainable practice issues
- Use numeracy skills ranging from the ability to complete basic arithmetic calculations, recording stock levels and statistical information
- Use oral communication skills required to fulfil job roles in a safe manner and as specified by the organisation, including skills in
 - asking questions
 - providing clear information
 - listening to and understanding workplace instructions
 - clarifying workplace instructions when necessary
 - competence in English or a community language, depending on client group and organisation requirements
- Use effective verbal and non verbal communication skills with a range of internal and external persons
- Use reading and writing skills-literacy competence required to fulfil job roles in a safe manner and as specified by the organisation to a level of skill required for
 - reading and documenting clinical information
 - understanding policy and procedure manuals
- Work with others and display empathy with clients and relatives

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the Performance Criteria, Required Skills and Knowledge, the Range Statement and the Assessment Guidelines for this Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate this competency unit:

- The individual being assessed must provide evidence of specified essential knowledge as well as skills
- Where, for reasons of safety, space, or access to equipment and resources, assessment takes place away from the workplace, the assessment environment should represent workplace conditions as closely as possible
- Consistency of performance should be demonstrated

EVIDENCE GUIDE

over the required range of situations relevant to the workplace

Context of and specific resources for assessment:

- Relevant organisation policy, guidelines, procedures and protocols

Method of assessment:

- Clinical skills involving direct client care are to be assessed initially in a simulated clinical setting (laboratory). If successful, a second assessment is to be conducted during workplace application under direct supervision.
- Observation of work activities when applying/removing traction
- Observation of simulation and/or role play when
- Applying/removing traction
- Discussion of physical and/or behavioural contingency scenarios involving duty of care
- Authenticated transcripts of relevant education/training courses
- Recognition of relevant life/work experience
- Questioning, written assessments/projects, e-learning can be used to assess knowledge
- Authenticated reports of experience in applying/removing traction (Documentation associated with performance reviews, supervisor/coordinator evaluations of work performance)
- Training records associated with first aid, occupational health and safety training, orientation/induction training, safe manual handling, universal infection control procedures
- Case study and scenario as a basis for discussion of issues and strategies to contribute to best practice

EVIDENCE GUIDE

- Access and equity considerations:*
- All workers in the health industry should be aware of access and equity issues in relation to their own area of work
 - All workers should develop their ability to work in a culturally diverse environment
 - In recognition of particular health issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, workers should be aware of cultural, historical and current issues impacting on health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
 - Assessors and trainers must take into account relevant access and equity issues, in particular relating to factors impacting on health of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients and communities
- Related units:*
- This unit can be assessed independently, however holistic assessment practice with other health services units of competency is encouraged

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The Range Statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Add any essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts.

- Types of tractions may include:*
- Manual
 - Skin e.g. adhesive and non-adhesive
 - Skeletal

RANGE STATEMENT

Clients may include:

- Adolescents
- Adults
- Children
- Clients (in care/out of care)
- Elderly
- Infants

Relevant personnel may include:

- Medical practitioners
- Other health professionals
- Traction equipment suppliers

Equipment may include:

- Attachments applicable to situation
- Felt/calico
- Foot plate
- Measuring tape and goniometer
- Medical adhesive tape&Scissors
- Safety pins
- Skin traction assembly kits
- Traction bed
- Traction ropes and pulleys
- Traction weights

Assessment of client's condition may include:

- Allergies
- Mechanism of injury
- Relevant medical history
- Skin condition e.g. oedema, blisters, pressure areas, broken skin, anaesthetic skin

Precautions may include:

- Diseases which may contribute to loss of bone density and/or reduction in bone strength
- Fluid retention

RANGE STATEMENT

Complications may include:

- Broken pins and wires
- Contact dermatitis or allergic response
- Failure to achieve acceptable length (insufficient weights)
- Failure to achieve alignment
- Loss of apposition (excessive weights)
- Loss of movement/function due to immobilisation
- Neurovascular complications
- Pressure areas
- Reduced range of movement/function of joint
- Secondary infection (pin site etc.)

Clients specific needs may include:

- Age
- Functional requirements or restrictions
- Mobilisation difficulties or restrictions
- Physical anomalies

Documentation may include:

- Appliance hire documentation
- Appointment forms and books
- Client records
- Traction check forms
- Work log books

Advice given to clients may include:

- Limb/body/pin site care
- Mobilisation exercises/routines
- Traction care

Appropriate support may include:

- Arrangement of educational material
- Review client's social situation in relation to their ability to manage with traction

Unit Sector(s)

Not Applicable