



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

HLTPAT413C Assist with pathology procedures

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not Applicable

Unit Descriptor

Descriptor

This unit of competency covers the ability to assist health professionals with pathology procedures and collection of specimens from clients for pathology testing

Application of the Unit

Application

Work performed requires a broad knowledge of varied activities and the ability to apply solutions to a wide range of non-routine and complex problems

Individuals will take responsibility for their own outputs, and provides some guidance and leadership to others to achieve outputs

All tasks are conducted in accordance with relevant federal, state and territory legislation and organisation policies and procedures including OHS 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 assist with procedure

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- 1.1 Identify precise nature and requirements of the *pathology request*
- 1.2 Identify *collection or procedure site*
- 1.3 Obtain and record relevant clinical information in accordance with *organisation policies and procedures*
- 1.4 Ensure client is correctly and comfortably positioned and prepared for collection or procedure
- 1.5 Comply with *pre-test criteria*
- 1.6 Liaise with *health professional* concerning nature of assistance required
- 1.7 Select and prepare *equipment and disposables* and correct collection or specimen containers
- 1.8 Prepare *collection or procedure site* in accordance with *organisation policy and procedures*

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA****2. Assist with performance of procedure**

- 2.1 Maintain communication with *health professional* performing *collection or procedure*
- 2.2 Follow correct protocols for assisting with *collection or procedure*
- 2.3 Follow instructions from *health professional*
- 2.4 Follow correct *infection control procedures* throughout *collection or procedure*
- 2.5 Use *personal protective equipment* correctly
- 2.6 Hand *equipment and disposables* or other items to *health professional* as required
- 2.7 Use *equipment* correctly
- 2.8 Observe client during *collection or procedure* for possible adverse reactions
- 2.9 Assist with response to adverse reactions as directed
- 2.10 Follow *organisation policy and procedures* for safe handling of pathology specimens

3. Assist with post collection procedures

- 3.1 Dispose of *waste* in accordance with *organisation policies and procedures*
- 3.2 Complete *documentation*
- 3.3 Check *collection or procedure site* to ensure bleeding has stopped, and is dressed appropriately
- 3.4 Ensure client is correctly positioned and made comfortable
- 3.5 Observe client during and on completion of collection or procedure and report adverse outcomes immediately to appropriate health professionals
- 3.6 Provide relevant information and instructions to client
- 3.7 Ensure client is left comfortable and notify *appropriate staff* so client's condition can be monitored
- 3.8 Label, store and transport pathology sample to laboratory in accordance with *organisation policies and procedures*

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 manage contingencies in the context of the identified work role

This includes knowledge of:

- Basic anatomy and physiology relevant to the work role and type of pathology collections or procedures, for which assistance is provided
- Basic medical terminology in regard to relevant collections and procedures
- Boundaries of responsibilities
- Client care in relation to the range of collection procedures
- Correct storage methods for collected specimens
- Obligations with respect to confidentiality of client information and relevant legal and ethical issues
- Pre-test criteria for the range of collection procedures
- Relevant organisation policies and procedures
- Specimen transport requirements
- Understanding of test requested and any critical requirements
- Waste disposal procedures

Essential skills:

It is critical that the candidate demonstrate the ability 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:

- Comply with policies and procedures including OHS, infection control etc
- Communicate effectively, including:
 - effective client communication
 - asking questions to obtain specific client and clinical information
 - effective communication with a range of healthcare professionals and clients

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- Demonstrate correct techniques for safely assisting with the collection of a range of pathology specimens and assisting with other pathology procedures
- Follow documentation procedures
- Follow safe working practices
- Follow workplace instructions
- Handle, label and transport sample correctly
- Identify clinical risks and response procedures in relation to the relevant range of procedures
- Select and use appropriate collection equipment and disposables
- Take into account opportunities to address waste minimisation, environmental responsibility and sustainable practice issues
- Use reading and writing skills as required to fulfil job role in a safe manner and as specified by the organisation at a level of skill that includes reading and interpreting requests for pathology specimens, completing appropriate clinical and other documentation, and comprehension of complex and relevant policies and procedures
- Use oral communication skills and language competence as 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
- Use numeracy skills, ranging from the ability to complete basic arithmetic calculations, weighing and measuring requirements, and recording data
- Use problem solving skills including ability to use available resources and apply solutions to a wide range of non-routine and complex problems
- Work with others and display empathy with client 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

- The individual being assessed must provide evidence of specified essential knowledge as well as skills

EVIDENCE GUIDE

demonstrate this competency unit:

- Observation of workplace performance is essential for assessment of this unit
- Consistency of performance should be demonstrated over the required range of situations relevant to the workplace
- 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

Context of and specific resources for assessment:

- Access to appropriate workplace where assessment can take place
- Simulation of realistic workplace setting may be used for initial training and assessment
- Collection equipment and disposables required for the range of pathology collections, for which assistance is provided of
- Relevant personal protective equipment
- Relevant waste disposal equipment
- Relevant organisation policy, guidelines, procedures and protocols

Method of assessment may include:

- Observation of performance
- Written tasks
- Interviewing and questioning
- Computer-aided assessment
- Formal appraisal systems
- Staff/client feedback
- Portfolio/CV
- Supporting statement of supervisor(s)
- Authenticated evidence of relevant work experience and/or formal/informal learning
- Case studies and scenarios as a basis for discussion of issues and strategies to contribute to best practice in the work environment

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 delivered and assessed independently, however holistic assessment practice with other pathology 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.

- Pathology request may:*
- Be in writing
 - Be made by a medical or authorised nurse practitioner
 - And must be in accordance with relevant legislation

RANGE STATEMENT

Collection or procedure site may include: A broad range of collections or procedures in accordance with organisation policy and procedures

Organisation policy and procedures may relate to:

- Collection and documentation of client clinical information
- Confidentiality of client information
- Consent
- Preparation for pathology collection procedures
- Performance of pathology collection procedures
- Infection control
- Occupational health and safety
- Specimen preparation, labelling, storage and transport
- Maintenance of sample integrity
- Documentation and recording keeping
- Handling of waste

Collection procedure or collection of sample may relate to:

- Pap smears
- Frozen sections
- Skin biopsy
- Swabs
- Bone marrow
- Fine needle aspirates
- skin scrapings
- Mantoux tests
- Arterial sampling
- Allergy testing
- Other procedures as per organisation policy and procedures or as required by an appropriate health professional

Pre-test criteria may relate to:

- Dietary restrictions
- Resting
- Drug administration

RANGE STATEMENT

Health professional may include:

- Pathologist
- Medical Practitioner
- Medical Scientist
- Other appropriate health professional

Equipment and disposables may include:

- Swabs
- Scalpel blades
- Sterile containers
- Needles
- Syringe
- Slides
- Slide carrier
- Punch biopsy
- Arterial blood gas syringe
- Pap smear kit
- Alcohol wipes
- Dressings

Infection control procedures may include:

- Standard and additional precautions
- Collection site preparation
- Waste handling and disposal

Personal protective equipment may include:

- Gloves
- Gowns
- Aprons
- Masks
- Protective eye wear

Waste may include:

- Clinical waste
- Cytotoxic waste
- Sharps
- General waste
- Personal and confidential waste

RANGE STATEMENT

Documentation may include:

- Record of test procedures
- Complete and sign request form
- Medical record notation
- Specimen labelling
- Data entry

Appropriate staff may include:

- Registered nurse
- Nursing unit manager
- Nursing staff in critical care or special care units
- Medical practitioner
- Collection centre staff

Unit Sector(s)

Not Applicable