



Australian Government

MSL974037 Triage and allocate tissue specimens

Release: 1

MSL974037 Triage and allocate tissue specimens

Modification History

Release 1. New unit.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to triage and allocate tissue specimens for transfer or surgical cut-up.

This unit applies to technical assistants, 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 scientific and/or medical staff as per National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) guidelines. The pathologist has the ultimate responsibility for the handling of a specimen regardless of who has performed these tasks.

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

Nil

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. Receive and check tissue specimens	1.1 Unpack tissue specimens and match to request forms in accordance with workplace procedures 1.2 Identify tissue specimens and request forms that do not comply with workplace requirements 1.3 Record any discrepancies and indicate action required 1.4 Register samples in accordance with workplace procedures, recording details that allow accurate tracking and chain of custody

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
	traceable to employee
2. Triage and distribute specimens	2.1 Identify and review data that informs tissue specimen triage 2.2 Identify fresh tissue specimens based on information provided 2.3 Sort, prioritise and distribute tissue specimens based on their complexity and subsequent processing requirements 2.4 Follow workplace procedures to optimise workflow processes

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>

Assessment Requirements for MSL974037 Triage and allocate tissue specimens

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Performance Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has completed the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit, and:

- followed workplace procedures for the triage and allocation of at least 10 different tissue specimens including at least 1 of each of the following:
 - fresh tissue
 - simple transfer
 - non-complex.

Knowledge Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has knowledge of:

- purpose of and processes involved in triage and allocation
- safe bench practices, including personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and hygiene requirements
- hazards in work involving triage and allocation and associated risk management procedures, including those related to:
 - ventilation
 - formalin
 - sharps
 - biohazards
 - ergonomics
- cross-checking procedures used in laboratories to ensure matching of patients, tissue specimens and request forms
- procedures for handling non-compliant specimens
- laboratory information management and tracking systems
- specimen triage process for different types of tissue specimens including:
 - fresh
 - fixed
 - priority
 - paediatric
- systems to categorise tissue specimen complexity and the associated handling requirements (simple, non-complex and complex)
- existence and purpose of anatomical ordering of tissue specimens

- difference in visual appearance of fresh versus fixed tissue
- basic aspects of subsequent histological procedures and impact of incorrect work practices in triage and allocation on subsequent processes including the quality of the final microscopic outcome
- legal, ethical and work health and safety (WHS) requirements specific to the work task including traceability, confidentiality and security requirements of all clinical information, and laboratory data and records and legal requirements relating to the use of human tissue.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must have been demonstrated in the workplace or in a simulated environment that reflects workplace conditions and contingencies. The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources, including:
 - a laboratory with relevant equipment, specimens and consumables
 - laboratory information management system
 - workplace procedures.

Assessors must satisfy the NVR/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

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