



Australian Government

MSL974038 Use techniques to complete simple tissue specimen transfers

Release: 1

MSL974038 Use techniques to complete simple tissue specimen transfers

Modification History

Release 1. New unit.

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge to process and transfer tissue specimens that require no selection or cutting. It involves the placement of whole specimens in uniquely identified cassettes for further processing, and the recording of macroscopic descriptions.

This unit applies to 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. The pathologist has the ultimate responsibility for the handling of a specimen regardless of who has performed the transfers.

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. Prepare equipment for tissue specimen transfer	1.1 Set up and confirm integrity of instruments and consumables for safe, contaminant-free and efficient transfer process 1.2 Check ventilation system is operational and adequate for the task and report any deficiencies in accordance with workplace procedures
2. Determine and record	2.1 Confirm patient identification in accordance with workplace

Elements	Performance Criteria
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
macroscopic descriptions	procedures 2.2 Interpret clinical notes and identify key information for the transfer process 2.3 Weigh, count and measure tissue specimens in accordance with specimen-specific workplace procedures 2.4 Record accurate details of tissue specimen gross features using appropriate terminology and in accordance with specimen-specific workplace procedures 2.5 Ink tissue specimens in accordance with workplace procedures
3. Transfer simple tissue specimens	3.1 Transfer tissue specimens from fixative into cassettes in accordance with workplace procedures 3.2 Orient tissue specimens in accordance with specimen-specific workplace procedures 3.3 Follow specimen-specific workplace procedures for volume, size and quantity of tissue specimens per cassette 3.4 Select and follow workplace procedures for the appropriate subsequent process

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 MSL974038 Use techniques to complete simple tissue specimen transfers

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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:

- safely and correctly performed the following for tissue specimens that do not require selection or dissection in accordance with workplace procedures:
 - directly transferred at least 5 different tissue specimens on three occasions each, with work to include 3 different biopsy types, 2 of which must be from the list below:
 - punch
 - shave
 - core
 - curettage
 - prostate or bladder chips.

Knowledge Evidence

There must be evidence the candidate has knowledge of:

- safe bench practices, including personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and hygiene requirements
- hazards in work involving tissue processing 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 specimens including:
 - fresh
 - fixed
 - priority
 - paediatric

- systems to categorise specimen complexity and the associated handling requirements (simple, non-complex and complex)
- existence and purpose of anatomical ordering
- difference in visual appearance of fresh versus fixed tissue
- purpose of tissue fixation and different fixatives
- how to interpret basic aspects of clinical notes, including medical terminology describing whole tissue specimens
- purpose of macroscopic descriptions, including importance of recording cassette content and the use of block keys
- basic lesion descriptors
- basic aspects of subsequent histological protocols and impact of incorrect work practices in simple transfers 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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