



Australian Government

MSL975006 Perform immunohaematological tests

Release: 1

MSL975006 Perform immunohaematological tests

Modification History

Release 1. Supersedes and is equivalent to MSL975006A Perform immunohaematological tests

Application

This unit of competency covers the ability of technical personnel to perform routine tests and procedures that are part of the requirements of pre- and post-blood transfusion practice. The unit also covers tests and procedures that are indicated in laboratory investigations in obstetric and perinatal medicine, in suspected haemolysis and haemolytic episodes, and in other clinical circumstances.

This unit of competency is applicable to technical officers and laboratory technicians working in the biomedical industry sector. It is understood that the management of any transfusion laboratory would establish for itself, in terms of its own responsibility and purposes, the ability of any worker to work in a transfusion science laboratory, regardless of the education and training record or presumed ability of any worker.

Tests will be related to the determination of blood groups and the detection of antibodies of significance in:

- transfusion (as laboratory evidence that *in vivo* cell destruction or immunisation may occur)
- pregnancy and the peri-natal period (as evidence of sensitisation of foetal red cells by transplacental maternal antibody)
- the investigation of haemolysis or haemolytic episodes.

The tests that the worker will use will be validated and authorised procedures, clearly described in the laboratory's manual of procedures. The unit of competency is based on the assumption that technical personnel would perform tests and procedures under the close supervision of scientific and/or medical staff. The parameters of interpretation will be clearly described, indicating for the worker what he or she is permitted to sign-off without reference to supervisors or managers.

While no specific licensing or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication, laboratory operations are governed by relevant legislation, regulations and/or external accreditation requirements. Local requirements should be checked.

Pre-requisite Unit

MSL974006 Perform biological procedures

Competency Field

Testing

Unit Sector

Elements and Performance Criteria

Elements describe the essential outcomes.		Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.	
1	Process samples and associated request forms	1.1	Check and match samples and request forms before they are accepted
		1.2	Return samples and request forms that do not comply with requirements to their source with reasons for non-acceptance
		1.3	Log acceptable samples, applying required document tracking mechanisms
		1.4	Process samples as required by requested tests
		1.5	Store sample components appropriately until required for testing
2	Perform tests	2.1	Select authorised tests that are indicated for the requested investigations
		2.2	Conduct individual tests according to documented methodologies, applying required quality control procedures
		2.3	Record all results, noting any phenomena that may be relevant to the interpretation of results
		2.4	Seek advice of section head or other responsible colleague when result interpretation is outside parameters of authorised approval

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| | | 2.5 | Store unused samples, for possible future reference, under conditions suitable to maintain viability |
| 3 | Maintain a safe environment | 3.1 | Use established work practices and personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure personal safety and that of other laboratory personnel |
| | | 3.2 | Clean up spills using appropriate techniques to protect personnel, work area and environment from contamination |
| | | 3.3 | Minimise the generation of wastes |
| | | 3.4 | Ensure the safe disposal of biohazardous materials and other laboratory waste in accordance with workplace procedures |
| 4 | Maintain laboratory records | 4.1 | Make entries on report forms or into computer systems, accurately recording or transcribing required data as required |
| | | 4.2 | Maintain instrument logs as required by accreditation checklists |
| | | 4.3 | Maintain records of blood and blood products received, used and returned to supplier |
| | | 4.4 | Maintain security and confidentiality of all clinical information, laboratory data and records |
| 5 | Issue blood and blood products | 5.1 | Complete documentation required to permit the issuing of blood or blood components that have been cleared for use by clinical staff |
| | | 5.2 | Advise courier of transport requirements to ensure blood or blood products are delivered in a timely and safe manner |

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 of competency.

Range of Conditions

This field allows for different work environments and conditions that may affect performance. Essential operating conditions that may be present (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) are included.

Standards, codes, procedures and/or workplace requirements

Standards, codes, procedures and/or workplace requirements include the latest version of one or more of:

- Australian and international standards, guidelines and codes covering competence of testing and calibration laboratories, laboratory safety, biological safety cabinets, occupational protective equipment, labelling of workplace substances, storage and handling of dangerous goods, physical containment levels and facility types, safety cabinets, work health and safety (WHS), and quality and environmental management
- specific regulations, codes, guidelines and business rules, such as Human Tissue Acts and regulations, Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion Guidelines for Pre-transfusion Testing, and Australian Red Cross Blood Service
- workplace documents, such as standard operating procedures (SOPs); quality procedures; equipment manuals; calibration and maintenance schedules; material safety data sheets (MSDS) and safety procedures; laboratory schedules; workplace recording and reporting procedures; waste minimisation, containment, processing and safe disposal procedures; and cleaning, hygiene and personal hygiene requirements
- instructions to comply with new legislation, standards, guidelines and codes
- sampling procedures (labelling, preparation, storage, transport and disposal) and test procedures (validated and authorised)
- schematics, work flows, and laboratory stock records and inventory

Communication

Communication involves interactions with one or more of:

- supervisors and managers (laboratory, quality, customer service)
- other laboratory personnel or relevant medical or nursing personnel
- couriers, patients and clients
- external auditors, or accreditation agency such as the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)

Safe work practices

Safe work practices include, but are not limited to, one or more of:

- ensuring access to service shut-off points
- recognising and observing hazard warnings and safety signs
- labelling of samples, reagents, aliquoted samples and hazardous materials
- handling and storage of hazardous materials and equipment in accordance with labelling, MSDS and manufacturer instructions
- identifying and reporting operating problems or equipment malfunctions
- cleaning and decontaminating equipment and work areas regularly using workplace procedures
- using PPE, such as gloves, safety glasses, coveralls and gowns
- using containment facilities (e.g. PCII, PCIII and PCIV physical containment laboratories), containment equipment (e.g. biohazard containers, laminar flow cabinets, Class I, II and III biohazard cabinets) and containment procedures

WHS and environmental management requirements

WHS and environmental management requirements include:

- complying with WHS and environmental management requirements at all times, which may be imposed through state/territory or federal legislation. These requirements must not be compromised at any time
- applying standard precautions relating to the potentially hazardous nature of samples
- accessing and applying current industry understanding of infection control issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and State and Territory Departments of Health, where relevant

Unit Mapping Information

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Links

MSA Training Package Implementation Guides - <http://mskills.org.au/training-packages/info/>