



Australian Government

PUAEME004 Provide emergency care for suspected spinal injury

Release: 2

PUAEME004 Provide emergency care for suspected spinal injury

Modification History

Release 2. Updated superseded HLT Pre-requisite unit.

Release 1. This is the first release of this unit of competency in the PUA Public Safety Training Package

Application

This unit of competency involves the skills and knowledge required to minimise further injury to a casualty when applying first aid and waiting for emergency medical aid. It includes recognition and management of a suspected spinal injury, immobilising cervical spine, evaluating the need to move a casualty, preparing a casualty for transport, transporting and monitoring a casualty and performing a casualty handover.

The unit is applicable to personnel from emergency services, volunteer organisations or organisations which provide a first aid service in an environment where there is a risk of spinal injuries.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Pre-requisite Unit

HLTAID011 Provide First Aid

Competency Field

Emergency Care

Unit Sector

Public Safety

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

1 Identify suspected spinal injury

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1.1 Signs and symptoms from a conscious casualty that may suggest a spinal injury are identified

- 1.2 Signs of life in an unconscious casualty are confirmed
 - 1.3 Basic life support protocols are followed with care for casualty's spine where casualty exhibits no signs of life
 - 1.4 Likely causes of unconsciousness that may suggest a spinal injury are identified
 - 1.5 Emergency medical aid is requested
- 2 Immobilise cervical spine**
 - 2.1 Casualty is communicated with to provide reassurance and to explain need to minimise movement of their spine
 - 2.2 Casualty is measured and appropriately sized cervical collar is selected
 - 2.3 Cervical collar is applied ensuring correct location and tension is applied
 - 2.4 Conscious standing casualty is assisted to supine position, in accordance with organisational procedures and availability of personnel
- 3 Evaluate need to move casualty**
 - 3.1 Potential hazards to first aider and to casualty are identified
 - 3.2 Risk of not moving the casualty while waiting for medical aid to arrive is evaluated
 - 3.3 Plan to move casualty is developed, in accordance with organisational procedures
- 4 Prepare casualty for transport**
 - 4.1 Casualty is communicated with to provide reassurance and the need to immobilise the casualty for transport is explained
 - 4.2 Equipment to immobilise the casualty's spine is selected
 - 4.3 Immobilisation equipment is applied, in accordance with organisational procedures and manufacturers' instructions
- 5 Transport and monitor casualty**
 - 5.1 Casualty is transported away from hazard, ensuring smooth movements are used by the team
 - 5.2 Team is directed in coordinated lifting, movement and lowering of casualty

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| 6 Perform casualty handover | 5.3 Casualty is monitored during transportation |
| | 6.1 Details of incident are communicated to medical personnel |
| | 6.2 Assistance is given to medical personnel, as requested |
| | 6.3 Debriefing with supervisor and/or other operational staff is undertaken |
| | 6.4 Documentation is completed, in accordance with organisational requirements |

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Range of Conditions

Range is restricted to essential operating conditions and any other variables essential to the work environment.

Non-essential conditions may be found in the Companion Volume Implementation Guide.

Unit Mapping Information

This unit replaces and is equivalent to PUAEME004A Provide emergency care for suspected spinal injury.

Links

Companion Volume Implementation Guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=3eca5672-6d5a-410b-8942-810d0ba05bbf>

Assessment Requirements for PUAEME004 Provide emergency care for suspected spinal injury

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Performance Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all requirements of the elements and performance criteria on at least one occasion and includes

- assessing and monitoring vital signs of casualty including level of consciousness, breathing rate, pulse rate, skin colour and temperature and remaining with casualty
- assessing hazards and evaluating associated risks when determining need to move casualty
- communicating with casualty to provide reassurance
- completing organisational documentation
- complying with organisational policies and procedures including Work, Health and Safety (OHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements
- following basic life support protocols
- identifying suspected spinal injury in both a conscious and unconscious casualty
- immobilising cervical spine including measuring and selecting appropriately sized cervical collar and fitting it correctly
- performing casualty handover to medical personnel
- preparing casualty for transport including selecting and applying appropriate immobilisation equipment including scoop stretchers, spine boards and strapping and stokes baskets
- transporting and monitoring casualty
- using safe manual handling skills

Knowledge Evidence

Evidence required to demonstrate competence in this unit must be relevant to and satisfy all the requirements of the elements and performance criteria and includes knowledge of

- basic life support protocols
- common causes of spinal injuries
- communication techniques
- manufacturers' operating instructions
- organisational documentation, policies and procedures including Work, Health and Safety (OHS)/Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements and risk mitigation
- potential hazards

- risks associated with moving a casualty with a suspected spinal injury
- safe manual handling techniques
- signs and symptoms of suspected spinal injury
- techniques for manual stabilisation
- types of spinal immobilisation equipment available including cervical collars, scoop stretchers, spine boards and strapping and stokes baskets
- vital signs of casualty

Assessment Conditions

As a minimum, assessors must satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, which include requirements in the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

As a minimum, assessment must satisfy applicable regulatory requirements, which include requirements in the Standards for Registered Training Organisations current at the time of assessment.

Assessment processes and techniques must be appropriate to the language, literacy and numeracy requirements of the work being performed and the needs of the candidate.

Assessment must occur in workplace operational situations. Where this is not appropriate, assessment must occur in industry approved simulated workplace operational situations that reflect workplace conditions.

Competency should be demonstrated in a range of first aid incidents or scenarios requiring management of suspected spinal injuries.

Resources for assessment must include access to

- a range of relevant exercises, case studies and/or simulations
- relevant and appropriate materials, equipment, tools and personal protective clothing and equipment currently used in industry including
 - equipment used in managing suspected spinal injuries
- applicable documentation including organisational procedures, industry standards, equipment specifications, regulations, codes of practice and operation manuals.

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