



**Australian Government**

# **SIFEMWK005 Cleanse and disinfect deceased persons**

**Release: 1**

# SIFEMWK005 Cleanse and disinfect deceased persons

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to perform basic body preparation requirement for all deceased persons which includes removing the wrapping and clothing from the deceased person, cleansing and disinfecting the body and relieving rigor mortis. It applies to funeral home staff working autonomously with a reasonable level of responsibility, and according to work health and safety, relevant legislation and workplace policies and procedures.

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

## Competency Field

Mortuary Work and Embalming

## Unit Sector

Embalming

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

1. Conduct preparatory procedures for cleansing and disinfecting deceased persons.

2. Remove wrapping on deceased persons.

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

1.1 Prepare and use personal protective equipment.

1.2 Identify and prepare mortuary area and appropriate instruments and equipment.

2.1 Disinfect body wrappings using appropriate droplet disinfectant according to infection control practices.

2.2 Open outer body wrappings and ensure containment of body fluids.

2.3 Cover mouth and nose with cloth soaked in an appropriate disinfectant.

2.4 Disinfect inner wrappings or clothing using a droplet disinfectant as required and according to

- infection control practices.
- 2.5 Remove inner wrapping and ensure containment of body fluids.
- 2.6 Place a durable modesty cover on genital area as required.
- 2.7 Place wrappings in an appropriate biowaste container and ensure containment of body fluids.
- 2.8 Recheck identity of deceased person against documentation, clothing, labelling and wrist tags.
- 2.9 Package or dispose of clothing separately according to given instructions.
- 3. Cleanse oral and nasal cavities.
  - 3.1 Remove cloth covering mouth and nose, and dispose of using appropriate biowaste container.
  - 3.2 Aspirate oral and nasal cavities if purge is present.
  - 3.3 Relieve rigor mortis from lower jaw as required.
  - 3.4 Open mouth to enable access and place cotton soaked in disinfectant deep inside using long forceps.
- 4. Cleanse and inspect body.
  - 4.1 Spray all areas of body with appropriate disinfectant and allow to remain on body surface for five minutes.
  - 4.2 Conduct external head and face inspection.
  - 4.3 Wash, rinse and dry all body surfaces using appropriate washing materials.
  - 4.4 Access rectal and vaginal orifices and place disinfectant cotton deep inside using large forceps, if required.
  - 4.5 Shampoo hair using germicidal soaps, shampoos and conditioners.
  - 4.6 Shave facial hair, trim beards and moustaches, if required.
  - 4.7 Conduct final inspection of body and note anything unusual for further attention.
  - 4.8 Note and document all jewellery and remove if required.
- 5. Relieve rigor mortis in body.
  - 5.1 Manipulate, move and rotate arms, hands, fingers, legs, ankles and toes carefully to relieve rigor mortis.
  - 5.2 Identify and avoid weakened tissue areas which may become damaged through relieving rigor

mortis.

- 6. Clean instruments, equipment and mortuary areas.
  - 6.1 Clean, disinfect or sterilise instruments and equipment.
  - 6.2 Dispose of waste materials.
  - 6.3 Store instruments and equipment and report faults.
  - 6.4 Clean and disinfect mortuary.
  - 6.5 Remove personal protective equipment and 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 of competency.

## Unit Mapping Information

SIFMWK006A Cleanse and disinfect deceased bodies.

## Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c2c3131e-4418-4aa3-8ff1-a855c95f7fd6>

# Assessment Requirements for SIFEMWK005 Cleanse and disinfect deceased persons

## Modification History

Not applicable.

## Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to:

- remove the wrapping and clothing from the deceased person, cleanse and disinfect the body and relieve rigor mortis
- prepare mortuary area and select and use the required instruments and equipment
- clean, disinfect and sterilise the mortuary area, instruments and equipment at conclusion of the treatment.

Evidence of performance of cleansing and disinfecting deceased persons on two or more occasions is required to demonstrate consistency of performance and ability to respond to different situations.

## Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge of:

- mortuary instruments and equipment used for cleansing and disinfecting bodies and associated uses
- preparation requirements for the mortuary area
- body cleansing and disinfecting techniques
- properties and uses of germicidal sprays and disinfectants
- workplace policies and procedures for cleansing and disinfecting deceased bodies and, sterilisation procedures for mortuary instruments and equipment
- correct and environmentally sound disposal methods for all types of waste and in particular for hazardous substances
- structure and functions of the system of the body, including the musculo-skeletal in relation to cleansing and disinfecting deceased bodies
- effect of rigor mortis and techniques use to relieve it in the body
- funeral services industry parameters and protocols for dealing with the deceased, including social cultural and religious requirements considerations
- federal, state or territory, and local government legislation and regulations relating to work health and safety/occupational health and safety, infection control and handling human remains.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a mortuary workplace:

- using suitable equipment and resources, including:
  - deceased persons
  - mortuary instruments and equipment, including personal protective equipment and chemicals
- under industry operating conditions where there is:
  - integration of tasks with possible interruptions to work typical of the job role
  - speed and timing requirements that reflect commercial operating conditions

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

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