



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

SIFMWK013A Determine embalming requirements

Revision Number: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to transfer a deceased person to a mortuary room and ascertain the body condition, classify the body and evaluate the effects and treatments for a range of body conditions and problems.

Application of the Unit

Application of the unit

This unit applies to embalming staff and involves working autonomously with a high level of responsibility.

Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units

Nil

Employability Skills Information

Employability skills This unit contains employability skills.

Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a unit of competency. Performance criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where bold italicised text is used, further information is detailed in the required skills and knowledge and/or the range statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the evidence guide.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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| 1 Prepare for a pre-embalming case analysis. | 1.1 Identify and prepare mortuary area and appropriate <i>mortuary instruments and equipment</i> according to <i>workplace policies and procedures, relevant legislation</i> and <i>infection control practices</i> . |
| | 1.2 Prepare and use <i>personal protective equipment</i> according to workplace policies and procedures, and relevant legislation. |
| | 1.3 Transfer the deceased person from mortuary refrigerator to mortuary room according to workplace policies and procedures, and relevant legislation. |
| | 1.4 Confirm death using appropriate <i>non-invasive observation techniques</i> . |
| | 1.5 Identify and respect <i>social, cultural and religious requirements</i> . |
| | 1.6 Advise team members of the extent of the procedure to be performed and associated precautions that may need to be taken and discuss emotional issues likely to be encountered with a particular case. |

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
2 Analyse embalming requirements.	2.1 Categorise the deceased into an appropriate body classification. 2.2 Identify physical and chemical changes of the body. 2.3 Inspect the body for a range of body conditions using appropriate instruments, apparatus and materials. 2.4 Identify and evaluate effects and treatments required for any identified body conditions. 2.5 Determine appropriate embalming techniques and required solution quantity, strength, pressures and rates of flow, taking into account identified body conditions and effects of different treatments.

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

This section describes the skills and knowledge required for this unit.

Required skills

- communication skills, including clear and direct communication and active listening and questioning techniques, to advise team members of embalming procedures and precautions and identify potential emotional issues
- problem-solving skills to identify effects of body conditions and appropriate treatments
- literacy and numeracy skills to identify and calculate appropriate solution requirements according to different body conditions and treatments
- self-management skills to monitor own response to dealing with deceased bodies and take corrective action.

Required knowledge

- infection control practices and procedures
- relevant workplace policies and procedures
- anatomy, physiology and post-mortem changes
- effects of embalming on various causes of death, medical treatments and procedures
- body examination techniques
- mortuary equipment, instruments and materials
- social, cultural and religious requirements
- funeral services industry parameters and protocols for dealing with the deceased
- broad working knowledge of relevant federal, state or territory, and local government legislation and regulations relating to OHS, infection control and handling human remains.

Evidence Guide

EVIDENCE GUIDE

The evidence guide provides advice on assessment and must be read in conjunction with the performance criteria, required skills and knowledge, range statement and the Assessment Guidelines for the Training Package.

Critical aspects for assessment Evidence of the following is essential:

EVIDENCE GUIDE

and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

- ability to analyse the embalming requirements by examination to evaluate the treatments and effects for specified body conditions and problems and calculate fluid dilutions for specific conditions using appropriate formulas
- ability to determine the appropriate embalming techniques and communicate these to mortuary staff advising of potential emotional issues
- knowledge of infection control practices and a full range of embalming procedures
- determining embalming requirements on multiple occasions to ensure consistency of performance and ability to respond to and evaluate different situations.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure:

- demonstration of skills in a facility, most commonly a mortuary, where deceased bodies may be safely stored and examined
- access to deceased bodies that require embalming
- access to mortuary instruments and equipment
- access to personal protective equipment.

Methods of assessment

A range of assessment methods should be used to assess practical skills and knowledge. The following examples are appropriate for this unit:

- observation of candidate inspecting deceased bodies and identifying appropriate embalming techniques for a range of body conditions
- written or verbal questioning to assess knowledge and understanding of all OHS and infection control practices and procedures
- review of portfolios of evidence and third-party workplace reports of on-the-job performance by the candidate.

Holistic assessment with other units relevant to the industry sector, workplace and job role is recommended, for example:

- SIFMWK014A Treat the arterial system
- SIFMWK015A Treat abdominal and thoracic cavities.

EVIDENCE GUIDE

Employability skills embedded in this unit should be assessed holistically with other relevant units that make up the skill set or qualification and in the context of the job role.

Range Statement

RANGE STATEMENT

The range statement relates to the unit of competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. Bold italicised wording, if used in the performance criteria, is detailed below. Essential operating conditions that may be present with training and assessment (depending on the work situation, needs of the candidate, accessibility of the item, and local industry and regional contexts) may also be included.

Mortuary instruments and equipment may include:

- injection instruments, including:
 - gravity and bulb syringe
 - arterial tube
 - hand pump
 - parietal needle
 - centrifugal pump
 - stopcock
 - Y tube
 - embalming machine
- drainage instruments, including:
 - drain tube
 - iliac drain tube
 - grooved director
 - angular spring forceps
- electric or motorised aspirating instruments, including:
 - autopsy aspirator
 - hydroaspirator
 - nasal tube aspirator
 - trocar
 - hydrovalve trocar
- personal protective equipment
- positioning devices
- sterilisation equipment
- sterilisation chemicals and solutions
- portiboy
- instruments and instrument tray
- dressing table
- disinfectant hand solution, paper towels and soap

RANGE STATEMENT

- pedestal lamps
- first aid kit
- aneurysm needle
- bistoury knife
- scalpels
- scissors
- separators
- suture needles
- needle holder
- forceps
- cavity fluid injectors
- trocar buttons and applicator.

Workplace policies and procedures may include:

- standard operating policies and procedures
- standards and certification requirements
- communication protocols
- quality assurance procedures
- OHS procedures, such as:
 - infection control procedures
 - manual handling procedures
 - material handling procedures, including hazardous or infectious materials
- emergency procedures, including fire and accident procedures
- security procedures.

Relevant legislation, regulations and codes of practice may include:

- OHS
- Anatomy Act
- Human Tissue Act
- Skin Penetration Act
- Coroner's Act
- Public Health Act
- Environment Protection Act
- local government regulations
- funeral services industry code of practice
- Worksafe Australia certification and standards.

RANGE STATEMENT

Infection control practices may include:

- universal precautions, including:
 - use of personal protective equipment
 - presumption that all blood and body fluids are infectious
 - covering exposed cuts and abrasions, particularly on workers' hands, with waterproof coverings prior to commencing work
 - immediate treatment of puncture wounds or abrasions
 - use of protective clothing when cleaning spillage of body fluids
- checking for infectious and transmittable disease
- sterilising apparatus and instruments
- providing sterile storage areas for instruments
- using disinfectants
- safe removal and disposal of soiled and contaminated garments
- safe ventilation
- avoiding invasive procedures on bodies
- immunisation
- periodic X-rays
- seeking medical advice
- recording injury and incidence
- reporting injury and incidence
- providing first aid kit
- performing first aid as necessary
- labelling clothing.

RANGE STATEMENT

Personal protective equipment may include:

- disposable gloves
- heavy duty gloves
- barrier gown or suit
- waterproof overshoes
- waterproof aprons
- splash proof masks
- eye goggles
- face visor
- hair cover
- filtered air supply:
 - negative air pressure
 - powered positive air supply.

Non-invasive observation techniques may include:

- checking for no pulse
- looking for fixed and dilated pupils
- observing no apparent breathing.

Social, cultural and religious requirements may include:

- dress standards
- gender of embalming personnel
- time required between death and burial or cremation
- orientation of the deceased person
- restrictions on methods of embalming permissible.

Body classification may include:

- gender
- age
- weight
- size
- body build.

Body conditions may include:

- body moisture content
- vascular problems
- delayed embalming
- discolouration
- exposure to drug therapies.

Unit Sector(s)

Sector Funeral Services

Competency field

Competency field Mortuary Work and Embalming