



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

SIFMWK015A Treat abdominal and thoracic cavities

Revision Number: 1

SIFMWK015A Treat abdominal and thoracic cavities

Modification History

Not applicable.

Unit Descriptor

Unit descriptor	This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to treat abdominal and thoracic cavities on non-autopsied bodies to eliminate the presence of liquid or gaseous substances.
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Application of the Unit

Application of the unit	This unit applies to embalming staff and involves working autonomously with a high level of responsibility.
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Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

Pre-Requisites

Prerequisite units	Nil
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Employability Skills Information

Employability skills	This unit contains employability skills.
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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
1 Prepare to treat abdominal and thoracic cavities.	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 Identify organs of the body requiring cavity treatment. 1.4 Determine appropriate cavity treatment and volume of fluid, allowing for <i>individual case characteristics</i>. 1.5 Remove <i>invasive and non-invasive medical paraphernalia</i> as required.
2 Treat abdominal and thoracic cavities.	2.1 Massage deceased person's face, head and neck to aid removal of discolouration. 2.2 Determine trocar entry point for aspiration, make incision and insert trocar into deceased person's abdomen using <i>approved surgical techniques</i>. 2.3 Aspirate <i>upper body and thoracic areas</i>. 2.4 Remove trocar and clean according to workplace policies and procedures and infection control practices. 2.5 Reinsert trocar into the deceased person's abdomen and aspirate <i>lower body and abdominal organs</i>.

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

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| | 2.6 | Inject correct volume of cavity fluid into aspirated regions. |
| | 2.7 | Remove trocar and close entry point. |
| | 2.8 | Evaluate effectiveness of aspiration and perform re-aspiration and re-injection if required. |
| | 2.9 | Identify and manage <i>hazards, complications and problems</i> according to workplace policies and procedures. |
| 3 | Complete documentation and clean up. | |
| | 3.1 | Complete <i>case analysis report</i> according to workplace policies and procedures. |
| | 3.2 | Clean, disinfect or sterilise instruments and equipment according to workplace policies and procedures, and relevant legislation. |
| | 3.3 | Dispose of waste materials according to workplace policies and procedures, and relevant legislation. |
| | 3.4 | Store instruments and equipment according to workplace policies and procedures and report faults. |
| | 3.5 | Clean and disinfect mortuary area according to workplace policies and procedures, and relevant legislation. |

Required Skills and Knowledge

REQUIRED SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

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

Required skills

- problem-solving skills to identify and evaluate effectiveness of abdominal and cavity treatment procedures and take corrective action where required
- literacy and numeracy skills to complete case analysis report and to mix and apply embalming chemicals
- planning and organisational skills to conduct all procedures according to pre-embalming case analysis
- 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
- trocar insertion and surgical suturing procedures
- body examination techniques
- mortuary equipment, instruments and materials
- 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 and evidence required to Evidence of the following is essential:

- ability to identify treatment requirements through a

EVIDENCE GUIDE

demonstrate competency in this unit

pre-embalming case analysis and to perform abdominal and thoracic cavity treatments using correct techniques and following OHS and infection control practices

- ability to prepare mortuary area and select and use the required instruments and equipment
- the cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising of the mortuary area, instruments and equipment at conclusion of the treatment
- completion of a case analysis report
- knowledge of infection control practices
- treating abdominal and thoracic cavities on multiple occasions to ensure consistency of performance and ability to respond to different situations.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Assessment must ensure:

- demonstration of skills in a mortuary facility where deceased bodies may be safely prepared and appropriate mortuary lighting, plumbing and ventilation requirements can be monitored and maintained
- access to embalming equipment, instruments and chemicals
- access to deceased bodies requiring abdominal and cavity treatment, including autopsied cases
- access to personal protective equipment.

EVIDENCE GUIDE

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 completing a range of abdominal and cavity treatment procedures
- 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:

- SIFMWK013A Determine embalming requirements
- SIFMWK014A Treat the arterial system.

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:

- 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
- pedestal lamps
- first aid kit
- aneurysm needle
- bistoury knife
- scalpels
- scissors
- separators
- suture needles
- needle holder
- forceps
- injection instruments, including:
 - gravity and bulb syringe
 - arterial tube
 - hand pump
 - centrifugal pump
 - stopcock
 - parietal needle
 - Y tube
 - embalming machine
- drainage instruments, including:
 - drain tube

RANGE STATEMENT

- iliac drain tube
- grooved director
- angular spring forceps
- aspirating instruments, including:
 - electric or motorised
 - autopsy aspirator
 - hydroaspirator
 - nasal tube aspirator
 - trocar
 - hydrovalve trocar
- 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.

Individual case characteristics
may include:

- standard case
- medical intervention
- organ donations.

Invasive and non-invasive medical paraphernalia may include:

- pacemakers
- electronic, nuclear and radioactive devices
- colostomy closures
- surgical drains.

Approved surgical techniques
may include:

- scalpel incision followed by insertion of trocar
- correct suturing techniques to close incision.

Upper body and thoracic areas
may include:

- right atrium of the heart
- right lung
- left lung
- thoracic cavity.

RANGE STATEMENT

Lower body and abdominal organs may include:

- abdominal cavity
- viscera
- alimentary canal
- stomach
- liver
- small and large intestine
- pancreas
- spleen
- gall bladder
- blood vessels
- appendix
- bladder
- kidneys
- uterus
- rectum.

Hazards, complications and problems may include:

- sharps injuries
- needle stick injuries
- blood splash
- infection
- contagious disease, such as:
 - viral haemorrhagic fevers
 - Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease
 - tuberculosis
 - HIV
- chemical spill
- putrefaction and tissue gas
- wet area.

Case analysis report may include:

- problems and complications
- corrective action taken.

Unit Sector(s)

Sector

Funeral Services

Competency field

Competency field

Mortuary Work and Embalming