



Australian Government

SIRCINF001 Use pharmacy practices for infection control

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to prevent cross transmission of infection. It requires the ability to follow pharmacy infection control guidelines; use safe and hygienic practices; clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces; and safely dispose of waste.

This unit applies to all pharmacy or dispensary assistants in a community pharmacy.

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

Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

Competency Field

Infection Control

Unit Sector

Community Pharmacy

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
Elements describe the essential outcomes.	Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.
1. Follow pharmacy infection control guidelines.	1.1. Identify pharmacy activities that require use of infection control practices and implement appropriate response. 1.2. Follow organisational procedures for infection control throughout relevant activities. 1.3. Report and provide clear information on incidents where precautions have failed and follow organisational procedures for care after exposure to risk of infection.
2. Use hygienic and safety practices to control cross-transmission.	2.1. Select and use personal protective equipment to avoid cross-transmission of infection. 2.2. Follow hand hygiene and washing procedures before

- and after customer contact, cleaning and waste disposal.
- 2.3. Cover own cuts and abrasions with occlusive dressings and change regularly.
 - 2.4. Avoid unhygienic personal contact with other people, work surfaces and equipment.
 - 2.5. Follow procedures for respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.
 - 2.6. Handle sharps with care to avoid stick injury and transmission of infection to self and dispose of immediately in sharps container.
3. Clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces.
- 3.1. Select and prepare appropriate cleaning products, disinfectants and equipment according to manufacturer instructions.
 - 3.2. Clean and disinfect work surfaces and equipment before and after use.
 - 3.3. Use and replace surface covers when required.
 - 3.4. Clean spills of bodily fluids using infection control methods.
 - 3.5. Decontaminate equipment requiring special processing after customer contact.
 - 3.6. Dispose of waste and sharps safely, according to specific disposal requirements and organisational waste management procedures.

Foundation Skills

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed here, along with a brief context statement.

Numeracy skills to:

- calculate the dilution requirements for cleaning and disinfection products.

Unit Mapping Information

No equivalent unit.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ca051b1b-5101-4ec2-ac1c-49699303188d>

Assessment Requirements for SIRCINF001 Use pharmacy practices for infection control

Modification History

Not applicable.

Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- select and use personal protective equipment for two different situations
- clean and disinfect equipment and surfaces on four occasions
- safely dispose of each of these types of waste:
 - contaminated waste
 - cleaning products
 - pharmaceutical sharps
- respond to two different spills
- demonstrate the following procedures to respond to two infection control incidents:
 - appropriate and timely verbal reports
 - organisational procedures for care after exposure to risk of infection.

Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- aspects of infection at an overview level:
 - opportunistic organisms; bacteria, fungi and viruses
 - pathogens
 - sources of infection and means of transmission
 - susceptible hosts; immune suppressed people, those with chronic diseases, the very old or very young
- community pharmacy industry and organisational:
 - types of activities that require use of infection control practices
 - infection control guidelines and procedures
 - waste management procedures for sharps and contaminated waste
 - reporting procedures for infection control incidents
- care requirements after incidents to manage risk of infection
- types and correct use of personal protection equipment for controlling cross transmission of infection:
 - gloves

- gowns
- masks
- protective glasses
- procedures for hand hygiene and care:
 - reasons for and use of routine hand washing and drying practices
 - use of antiseptic wipes and alcohol based sanitiser for acceptable circumstances
 - wearing gloves to handle irritant cleaning and disinfection products
 - use of aftercare hand creams
- types of unhygienic personal contact with customers, work surfaces and equipment that may transfer micro-organisms and spread infection:
 - blowing nose
 - coughing
 - scratching skin and hair
 - sneezing
 - spitting
 - touching wounds
- safe sharps handling and disposal techniques
- cleaning and disinfecting techniques and products used for:
 - pharmacy health care service work areas and work bench surfaces
 - pharmacy health care equipment
- pharmacy equipment requiring special processing after customer contact and methods to decontaminate
- role, use and basic content of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or plain English workplace documents or diagrams that interpret SDS content for cleaning and disinfecting products
- safe methods to clean spills of bodily fluids
- environmentally sound disposal methods for hazardous waste:
 - contaminated waste
 - cleaning products
 - pharmaceutical sharps.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a pharmacy with designated front of pharmacy and customer health care service areas. This can be:

- an industry workplace
- a simulated industry environment.

Assessment must ensure use of:

- hand washing and drying facilities with appropriate soap
- antiseptic wipes and alcohol based sanitiser

- personal protective equipment
- pharmacy health-care equipment used for specific services
- cleaning and disinfecting products
- waste disposal receptacles suitable for:
 - contaminated waste
 - cleaning products
 - pharmaceutical sharps (sharps disposal containers)
- community pharmacy industry guidelines and procedures for:
 - infection control
 - waste management of sharps and contaminated waste
 - reporting of infection control incidents
- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) or plain English workplace documents or diagrams that interpret SDS content for cleaning and disinfecting products.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisation's requirements for assessors, and:

- have worked in the pharmacy sector for at least two years.

Links

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