

## **HSC237 Obtain and test capillary blood samples (Level 2)**

### **Elements of Competence**

HSC237a Obtain capillary blood

HSC237b Test, record and report on capillary blood sample results

### **About this unit**

For this unit you need to be able to collect capillary blood samples (using either manual or automated lancets) and test, record and report on the sample.

#### Scope

The scope is here to give you guidance on possible areas to be covered in this unit. The terms in this section give you a list of options linked with items in the performance criteria. You need to provide evidence for any option related to your work area.

**Adverse reaction/event** may include: anxiety/fear; pain; re-bleed; haematoma; nerve damage

**Appropriate staff member** may include: registered nurse; midwife; health visitor; doctor; social worker

**Materials and equipment** for: preparing and caring for the sampling site; obtaining the sample; such as manual and automated lancets; capillary devices; blood sugar monitors; slides; testing the sample; recording results; labeling; single use; multiple use

**Packaging** includes: bio- hazard bags; trays; sample racks

**Settings** may include: clinical environments (e.g. wards and clinics); non-clinical environments (e.g. individual's home, blood collection venues)

**Standard precautions and health and safety measures** including: hand washing/cleansing before during and after the activity; the use of **personal protective clothing** and **additional protective equipment**; handling **contaminated** items; disposing of waste; safe moving and handling techniques and untoward incident procedures

**Tests** can be carried out: electronically; non-electronically

Your **knowledge and understanding** will be specifically related to legal requirements and codes of practice applicable to your job; your work activities; the job you are doing (e.g. domiciliary, residential care, hospital settings) and the individuals you are working with.

### **Values underpinning the whole of the unit**

The values underpinning this unit have been derived from the key purpose statement<sup>1</sup>, the statement of expectations from carers and people receiving services, relevant service standards and codes of practice for health and social care in the four UK countries. They can be found in the principles of care unit HSC24. To achieve this unit you must demonstrate that you have applied the principles of care outlined in unit HSC24 in your practice and through your knowledge.

This unit is directly transferable to Health national occupational standard BD2

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<sup>1</sup> The key purpose identified for those working in health and social care settings is "to provide an integrated, ethical and inclusive service, which meets agreed needs and outcomes of people requiring health and/or social care"  
A6.12 level 2

## Key Words and Concepts

This section provides explanations and definitions of the key words and concepts used in this unit. In occupational standards it is quite common to find words or phrases used which you will be familiar with, but which, in the detail of the standards, may be used in a very particular way. **Therefore, we would encourage you to read this section carefully before you begin working with the standards and to refer back to this section as required.**

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<b>Additional protective equipment</b>	Includes: types of personal protective equipment such as visors, protective eyewear and radiation protective equipment
<b>Contaminated</b>	Includes: items 'contaminated' with body fluids, chemicals or radionucleatides. Any pack/item opened and not used should be treated as contaminated
<b>Individual</b>	The person from whom the venous blood sample has been obtained, this can include blood donors or prospective donors, and clients/patients in other care settings.
<b>Personal protective clothing</b>	Includes items such as plastic aprons, gloves - both clean and sterile, footwear, dresses, trousers and shirts and all in one trouser suits. These may be single use disposable clothing or reusable clothing
<b>Standard precautions and health and safety measures</b>	A series of interventions which will minimise or prevent infection and cross infection including: hand washing/cleansing before during and after the activity; the use of personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment when appropriate

HSC237a Obtain capillary blood

### **Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you apply **standard precautions** for infection control any other relevant **health and safety measures**
2. you select and prepare the site for obtaining the capillary blood sample immediately before the blood is obtained, in line with organisational procedures
3. you obtain the required amount of blood of the required quality, using the selected materials and equipment into the container(s) and/or onto the appropriate strips or slides, in the correct order and in a manner which will cause minimum discomfort to the **individual**
4. you take appropriate action to stimulate the flow of blood if there is a problem obtaining blood from the selected site, or choose an alternative site
5. you apply pressure to the puncture site following completion to encourage closure and blood clotting
6. you promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction/event to the procedure and act accordingly
7. you label the sample, if it is not to be tested immediately clearly, accurately and legibly, using computer prepared labels where appropriate
8. you place sample in the appropriate packaging, ensure the correct request forms are attached and put in the appropriate place for transport or storage
9. you ensure immediate transport of the sample to the relevant venue when blood sampling and investigations are urgent
10. you document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records

HSC237b Test, record and report on capillary blood sample results

### **Performance Criteria**

You need to show that,

1. you **test** the blood sample correctly when appropriate, using the appropriate method, in line with organisational procedures
2. you recognise and interpret results accurately or pass them onto an appropriate staff member for interpretation
3. you record results fully and accurately in the appropriate manner and place and report to the appropriate staff member
4. you give clear and accurate information to the individual about the results of tests, if available and within the limits of your responsibility
5. you respond to questions from the individual clearly and accurately in an appropriate manner, level and pace or refer them to an appropriate staff member
6. you ensure that the individual is informed if any further action is required/the next stage in the process

## **Knowledge Specification for the whole of this unit**

Competent practice is a combination of the application of skills and knowledge informed by values and ethics. This specification details the knowledge and understanding required to carry out competent practice in the performance described in this unit.

When using this specification **it is important to read the knowledge requirements in relation to expectations and requirements of your job role.**

You need to show that you know, understand and can apply in practice:

### **Values**

1. a working knowledge of the importance of obtaining positive confirmation of individuals' identity and consent before starting the procedure, and effective ways of getting positive identification
2. a working understanding of confidentiality and the measures taken to ensure it is appropriately maintained

### **Legislation and organisational policy and procedures**

3. a factual awareness of the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols which affect your work practice in relation to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples
4. a working knowledge of your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols

### **Theory and practice**

5. a factual awareness of the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
6. a working understanding of the importance of applying standard precautions and the potential consequences of poor practice
7. a working understanding of how infection is spread and how its spread may be limited, including how to use or apply the particular infection control measures needed when working with blood

### **Anatomy and physiology**

8. a factual awareness of the structure and purpose of capillary blood vessels
9. a factual awareness of blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting
10. a working understanding of the normal or expected results for particular tests and therefore what constitutes an abnormal result

### **Care and support**

11. a factual awareness of the different reasons for obtaining capillary blood samples taken
12. a working understanding of the concerns that individuals may have in relation to capillary blood sampling
13. a working understanding of the sites which can be used for capillary sampling and what the factors that need to be considered in selecting the

- best site to use (including the individual's own preference)
14. a working understanding of why it is important to clean the sites from which you will obtain samples, and the appropriate ways of doing this
  15. a working understanding of the limits of your role and the circumstances in which you would need to refer to another person
  16. a working understanding of the contra-indications which indicate that capillary sampling should be stopped and advice sought
  17. a working understanding of what is likely to cause discomfort to individuals during and after the collection of capillary blood samples, and how such discomfort can be minimised
  18. a working understanding of what can cause problems in obtaining capillary blood samples, what can be done to stimulate blood flow and when another site should be used
  19. a factual awareness of the common adverse reactions/events which individuals may have to blood sampling, how to recognise them and action(s) to take if they occur

### ***Materials and equipment***

20. a working understanding of the equipment and materials are needed for capillary blood sampling and testing
21. a working understanding of the sorts of equipment and materials which are sensitive to environmental changes and how this affects their storage and use
22. a working understanding of which equipment and instruments are re-usable and which must be discarded after one use
23. a factual awareness of the different types of containers/slides which are used for collecting capillary blood samples
24. a factual awareness of the types of samples which have particular packaging, storage and transfer requirements and what these requirements are
25. a working understanding of how and when to label samples

### Procedures and techniques

26. a working understanding of the importance of ensuring sites for capillary blood sampling are cleaned effectively, and how and when this should be done
27. a working understanding of the process and procedure for obtaining capillary blood samples, including the correct sequence of actions
28. a working understanding of the factors involved in the procedures which could affect the quality of the blood
29. a working understanding of the importance of collecting capillary blood samples of the right quality, and how to achieve this
30. a working understanding of the complications and problems may occur during the collection of capillary blood samples, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take
31. a working understanding of how to perform relevant tests

### ***Records and documentation***

32. a working understanding of how to record test results, and the importance

of clear and accurate documentation

33. a working understanding of the information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation when sending capillary blood samples to the laboratory
  1. a working understanding of the importance of completing labels and documentation clearly, legibly and accurately, and the possible consequences of confusing (muddling) samples or incorrect labelling
  1. A working understanding of the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff