

HSC363 Test for substance use

Elements of Competence

- HSC363a** Prepare to test for substance use
- HSC363b** Take samples for testing
- HSC363c** Communicate and record the results of testing

About this unit

For this unit you need to test individuals to see if they have been using substances, such as alcohol and controlled drugs.

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.

Individuals: adults; young people; men; women; posing a low risk of infection; posing a high risk of infection; with special needs.

Requirements: prescribing; legal; organisational.

Samples: breath; urine; blood; hair; saliva.

This is Drugs and Alcohol National Occupational Standard (DANOS) AE1.

HSC363a Prepare to test for substance use

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you accurately identify those individuals to be tested for substance misuse
2. you schedule tests in accordance with requirements
3. you confirm that the environment in which the tests are to be carried out, and the procedures to be used comply with health, safety and security policies
4. you make arrangements for tests to be witnessed, where required
5. you confirm that those involved in carrying out tests are competent and fully understand their roles and the procedures to be followed
6. you confirm the availability of all necessary equipment for testing

HSC363b Take samples for testing

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you confirm that individuals being tested understand the purpose of the tests, their rights, and any consequences of not submitting to the testing procedures
2. you obtain any necessary consent for testing procedures from individuals, or from their carers or guardians where required
3. you explain clearly and precisely to individuals what they have to do to provide their samples
4. you provide opportunities for individuals to describe their substance use and explain possible false positives before they are tested
5. you take samples according to clinical and organisational policies and procedures
6. you ensure that the samples are authentic and have not been contaminated
7. you promptly refer to relevant people if you suspect that samples are not authentic or have been contaminated
8. you test samples, or refer them for testing, in accordance with clinical and organisational policies and procedures
9. you follow supplier's/maker's instructions for use of equipment, where appropriate
10. you dispose of samples safely, in accordance with clinical and organisational policies and procedures

HSC363c Communicate and record the results of testing

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you communicate the outcomes of the tests to individuals, and their carers or guardians where required, and ensure they understand the consequences
2. you respect individuals' rights and the required standards of confidentiality
3. you keep full and accurate records of tests and make reports in accordance with your organisation's policy and procedures

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. individuals' rights when being tested for substance use

Legislation and organisational policy and procedures

2. the legal requirements relating to testing for substance misuse
3. health, safety and security policies and how to ensure the testing environment and procedures meets these
4. whom to refer to if you suspect that samples are not authentic or have been contaminated

Theory and practice

Communication and interpersonal relationships:

5. the principles and processes of effective communication and how to apply them

Information handling:

6. the principles and standards of confidentiality and how to apply them
7. the importance of keeping full and accurate records and how to do so

Substance misuse:

8. the purpose of testing and the consequences of non-compliance for individuals
9. the importance of accurately identifying those individuals to be tested for substance use and how to do so
10. the competences required of those involved in testing for substance use
11. clinical and organisational procedures for testing for substance use
12. when testing needs to be witnessed and how to make appropriate arrangements
13. the importance of obtaining consent for substance testing, how to do so and when carers and/or guardians need to be involved
14. the possible causes of false readings in the types of tests carried out
15. the equipment required for testing for substance use and how to use this in accordance with supplier's/manufacturer's instructions
16. how to dispose of samples safely