

HSC376 Obtain venous blood samples (Level 3)

Elements of Competence

HSC376a Obtain venous blood from individuals

HSC376b Label and prepare blood for transportation

About this unit

For this unit you need to use venepuncture/phlebotomy techniques and procedures to obtain venous blood samples from individuals for investigations as part of their care plan, or from potential donors in blood and blood component donor sessions.

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: those related to venepuncture / phlebotomy – haematoma; arterial puncture; pain; nerve damage; re-bleed; allergy; phlebitis; vaso-vagal reaction; anxiety/fear

Appropriate action may include: checking tourniquet is providing sufficient venous engorgement; removing collection system and starting again at a different site; obtaining support from a more experienced practitioner

Blood collection system may include: needles and syringes; vacu-container systems; 'butterflies'

Dressing may include: standard plaster; hypoallergenic plaster; gauze; bandage

Materials and equipment may include: those for preparing and caring for the venous access site; documentation and labelling; needles and syringes/vacu-containers.

Packaging may include: bio- hazard bags; trays; sample racks.

Standard precautions and health and safety measures including handwashing/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; untoward incident procedures

Tourniquets may include: re-useable and disposable tourniquets specifically designed for the purpose

Your **knowledge and understanding** for this unit will relate to legal requirements and codes of practice applicable to the scope of your work and others with whom you work; the nature of the work you are undertaking; your role and level of responsibility within your organisation (e.g. whether you have responsibility to support the work of others); the individuals, key people¹ and others with whom you are required to work and the degree of autonomy you have for the management of your own work activities.

¹ If you are working with children and young people the term "individuals" covers children and young people and "key people" covers parents, families, carers, friends and others with whom the child/young person has a supportive relationship

Values underpinning the whole of the unit

The values underpinning this unit have been derived from the key purpose statement², 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. If you are working with children and young people they can be found in the principles of care unit HSC34. If you are working with adults they can be found in HSC35. To achieve this unit you must demonstrate that you have applied the principles of care outlined in either unit HSC34 or HSC35 in your practice and through your knowledge.

This unit is directly transferable to Health national occupational standard BD11

² 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”

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.**

Additional protective equipment

Includes: types of personal protective equipment such as visors, protective eyewear and radiation protective equipment

Contaminated

Includes: items 'contaminated' with body fluids, chemicals or radionucleatides. Any pack/item opened and not used should be treated as contaminated

Individual

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

Personal protective clothing

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

Standard precautions and health and safety measures

A series of interventions which will minimise or prevent infection and cross infection; including handwashing/cleansing before during and after the activity and the use of personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment when appropriate

HSC376a Obtain venous blood from individuals

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 an appropriate site for obtaining the venous blood, immediately before the blood is obtained, in line with organisational procedures
3. you apply, use and release a tourniquet at appropriate stages of the procedure
4. you gain venous access using the selected blood collection system, in a manner which will cause minimum discomfort to the **individual**
5. you obtain the blood from the selected site:
 - in the correct container according to investigation required
 - in the correct volume
 - in the correct order when taking multiple samples
6. 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
7. you mix the blood and anti-coagulant thoroughly **WHEN** anti-coagulated blood is needed
8. you promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction/event to the procedure and act accordingly
9. you remove blood collection equipment and stop blood flow with sufficient pressure at the correct point and for the sufficient length of time to ensure bleeding has stopped
10. you apply a suitable dressing to the puncture site according to guidelines and/or protocols, and advise the individual about how to care for the site

HSC376b Label and prepare blood for transportation

Performance Criteria

You need to show that,

1. you label blood samples clearly, accurately and legibly, using computer prepared labels where appropriate
2. you place samples in the appropriate packaging and ensure the correct request forms are attached
3. you place samples in the nominated place for collection and transportation, ensuring the blood is kept at the required temperature to maintain its integrity
4. you document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records
5. you ensure immediate transport of the blood to the relevant department when blood sampling and investigations are urgent

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:

Legislation and organisational policy and procedures

1. a factual knowledge of the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols which affect your work practice in relation to obtaining venous blood
2. 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

3. 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
4. a factual knowledge of the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
5. a working knowledge of the importance of applying standard precautions and the potential consequences of poor practice
6. a working knowledge 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

7. a factual knowledge of the structure of blood vessels
8. a factual knowledge of the position of accessible veins for venous access in relation to arteries, nerves and other anatomical structures
9. a factual knowledge of blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting

Care and support

10. a working knowledge of the extent of the action you can take, which includes any information you may give, particularly in relation to clinical issues
11. a working knowledge of the contra-indications and changes in behaviour and condition, which indicate that the procedure should be stopped, and advice sought
12. a working knowledge of the concerns which those giving blood/donors may have in relation to you obtaining venous blood
13. a working knowledge of how to prepare those giving blood/donors for obtaining venous blood, including how their personal beliefs and preferences may affect their preparation

14. a working knowledge of what is likely to cause discomfort to individuals during and after obtaining venous blood, and how such discomfort can be minimised
15. a working knowledge of common adverse reactions/events to blood sampling, how to recognise them and the action(s) to take if they occur

Materials and equipment

16. a working knowledge of the type and function of different blood collection systems
17. a working knowledge of what dressings are needed for different types of puncture sites, how to apply and what advice to give individuals on caring for the site

Procedures and techniques

18. a working knowledge of the factors to consider in selecting the best site to use for venous access
19. a working knowledge of the equipment and materials needed for venepuncture /phlebotomy and how to check and prepare blood collection systems
20. a working knowledge of the importance of ensuring venous access sites are cleaned effectively, and how and when this should be done
21. a working knowledge of the correct use of tourniquets
22. a working knowledge of the importance of correctly and safely inserting and removing needles
23. a working knowledge of how to recognise an arterial puncture, and the action to take if this occurs
24. a working knowledge of the factors involved in the procedure which could affect the quality of the blood
25. a working knowledge of the remedial action you can take if there are problems in obtaining blood
26. a working knowledge of the complications and problems may occur during venepuncture, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take
27. a working knowledge of when and how to dress venous puncture sites

Reporting, recording and documentation

28. a working knowledge of the information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation
29. a working knowledge of the importance of completing labels and documentation clearly, legibly and accurately
30. a working knowledge of the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff