Unit 4222-231 Obtain and test specimens from individuals (HSC 2027)

Level: **2**
Credit value: **2**
UAN: **J/601/8853**

Unit aim

This unit is aimed at those working in health care settings. This unit provides the learner with the knowledge and skills required to obtain and test specimens, excluding blood samples.

Learning outcomes

There are **six** learning outcomes to this unit. The learner will:

1. Understand the processes involved in obtaining and testing specimens from individuals
2. Be able to prepare to obtain specimens from individuals
3. Be able to obtain specimens from individuals
4. Be able to test specimens
5. Be able to report on the outcomes on the test of specimens
6. Understand relevant legislation, policy and good practice in relation to obtaining, carrying, testing and storing specimens

Guided learning hours

It is recommended that **12** hours should be allocated for this unit, although patterns of delivery are likely to vary.

Details of the relationship between the unit and relevant national standards

This unit is linked to CHS7.

Support of the unit by a sector or other appropriate body

This unit is endorsed by Skills for Care and Development.

Assessment

This unit must be assessed in accordance with Skills for Care and Development's QCF Assessment Principles.

Learning Outcomes 2, 3, 4 and 5 must be assessed in a real work environment.

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Assessment Criteria

Outcome 1 Understand the processes involved in obtaining and testing specimens from individuals

The learner can:

1. identify the **different types of specimens** that may be obtained
2. describe the tests and investigations that may be carried out upon the specimens
3. identify the correct equipment and materials used in the collection and transport of specimens.

Outcome 2 Be able to prepare to obtain specimens from individuals

The learner can:

1. confirm the individual's identity and obtain **valid consent**
2. ensure the individual's privacy and dignity is maintained at all times
3. identify any aspects of the individual's ethnic and religious background which might affect the procedure
4. communicate with the individual in a medium appropriate to their needs and preferences
5. demonstrate that the required preparations have been completed including materials and equipment.

Outcome 3 Be able to obtain specimens from individuals

The learner can:

1. provide the correct container for the individual to be able to provide the specimen for themselves
2. collect the specimen where the individual cannot provide the specimen for themselves
3. describe possible problems in collecting specimens and how and when these should be reported
4. demonstrate the correct collection, labelling and storage of specimens
5. complete and attach relevant documentation.

Outcome 4 Be able to test specimens

The learner can:

1. demonstrate the appropriate tests for a range of specimens obtained
2. demonstrate appropriate health and safety measures relevant to the procedure and environment to include:
   - standard precautions for infection prevention and control
   - use of personal protective equipment.

Outcome 5 Be able to report on the outcomes on the test of specimens

The learner can:

1. show the correct process for reporting and recording test results
2. describe the actions to be taken when the results are outside the normal range
3. communicate test results in accordance with **agreed ways of working**
4. describe why it is important to understand the implications the test results may have on the individual.

Outcome 6 Understand relevant legislation, policy and good practice in relation to obtaining, carrying, testing and storing specimens

The learner can:

1. explain current legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols which affect working practice
2. identify the potential hazards and other consequences related to incorrect labelling of specimens.

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Additional guidance

- **Different types of specimens** – excludes blood
- **Valid consent** must be in line with agreed UK country definition
- **Agreed ways of working** will include policies and procedures where these exist