Obtain and test capillary blood samples

Unit Descriptor:

This unit describes the competence required to obtain and test capillary blood samples.

The unit describes the essential abilities of:

- Having knowledge of the materials and equipments to be used
- Having knowledge of the individuals’ care plan
- Having knowledge of health and safety measures
- Communicating effectively

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<th>ELEMENT</th>
<th>PERFORMANCE CRITERIA</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Obtain capillary blood</td>
<td>1.1 Apply standard precautions for infection control and any other relevant health and safety measures.</td>
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<td>1.2 Select and prepare the site for obtaining the capillary blood sample immediately before the blood is obtained, in line with organisational procedures.</td>
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<td>1.3 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.</td>
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<td>1.4 Apply pressure to the puncture site following completion to encourage closure and blood clotting.</td>
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<td>1.5 Promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction/event to the procedure and act accordingly.</td>
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<td>1.6 Document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Test, record and report on capillary blood sample results</td>
<td>2.1 Test the blood sample correctly when appropriate, using the appropriate method, in line with organisational procedures.</td>
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2.2 Recognise and interpret results accurately or pass them onto an **appropriate staff member** for interpretation.

2.3 Record results fully and accurately in the appropriate manner and place and report to the appropriate staff member.

2.4 Give clear and accurate information to the individual about the results of **tests**, if available, and within the limits of your responsibility.

2.5 Respond to questions from the individual clearly and accurately in an appropriate manner, level and pace or refer them to an appropriate staff member.

2.6 Ensure that the individual is informed if any further action is required/the next stage in the process.
RANGE STATEMENT

You must cover the items below:

Element 1: Obtain capillary blood

A. **Standard precautions for health and safety measures:** *(Applies to Element 2 also)*
   
   (i) hand washing/cleaning before, during and after the activity  
   (ii) the use of personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment  
   (iii) handling contaminated items  
   (iv) disposing of waste  
   (v) safe moving and handling techniques and untoward incident procedure

B. **Adverse reaction/event:**
   
   (i) anxiety/fear  
   (ii) pain  
   (iii) re-bleed  
   (iv) haematoma  
   (v) nerve damage

Element 2: Test, record and report on capillary blood sample results

C. **Appropriate staff member:**
   
   (i) registered nurse  
   (ii) midwife  
   (iii) health visitor  
   (iv) doctor  
   (v) social worker

D. **Tests:**
   
   (i) electronically  
   (ii) non-electronically
UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

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 national legislation, national guidelines, 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 national legislation, national guidelines, 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 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 are 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 which 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.

34. 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.

35. 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.
EVIDENCE GUIDE

(1) Critical Aspects of Evidence

• You must provide your assessor with evidence for ALL of the performance criteria, all of the knowledge and the parts of the range that are relevant to your job role.

• The evidence must reflect the policies and procedures of the workplace and be linked to current legislation, values and the principles of best practice within the Health and Social Care sector.

• All evidence must relate to your own work practice.

(2) Methods of Assessment

The following forms of evidence are required:

• Direct observation: your assessor or an expert witness must observe you in real work activities which provide a significant amount of the performance criteria for both elements in this unit. For example, how you take all the necessary health precautions before, during and after carrying out procedures, how you interact with the individuals whose blood you are taking.

• Personal statement/professional discussion: you should be able to describe your actions in particular situations and explain why you work the way you do, including adhering to legislation relevant to obtaining blood.

Competence of performance and knowledge could also be demonstrated using a variety of evidence from the following:

• Questioning: to assess your underpinning knowledge, your assessor will ask questions about your work and about the policies on legislation, and procedures which cannot be fully evidenced through direct observation or reflective accounts. In addition the assessor/expert witness may also ask questions to clarify aspects of your practice.

• Witness testimony: this is a confirmation of the way that you communicate with an individual, it could be written by your line manager, another assessor, a member of the care team you work with or an individual you are caring for.

• Products: these could include charts.

• APL/Assignment/project: you may have already completed a project or assignment from vocationally related qualification, you may also have evidence from other training e.g. a course on the methodology of obtaining capillary blood, and have completed some assessment at the end of the course, health and safety, Infection Control, Personal Protective Clothing/equipment, reporting and recording.
Performance evidence should be demonstrated on at least three (3) occasions.

NB: Confidential records are not required in your portfolio, they can remain where they are normally stored and be checked by your assessor and internal verifier. If they are included they must be anonymised.

(3) Context of Assessment

• Simulation is NOT allowed for any part of this unit.