

Competency Assessment

Obtaining (& Labelling) Venous Blood Samples

Objective

This competency maps to the National Occupational Standard CHS 132 developed by Skills for Health in June 2010. This competency covers patient identification, obtaining blood samples and the labelling of blood samples for a patient who may need a transfusion of blood components and meets national standards for labelling blood samples required for transfusion.

Knowledge and skills framework

This competence has indicative links with the following dimensions and levels within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004) for the relevant staff groups:

Dimension: Communication, Health and Safety, Quality, Health and Well-being, HWB6 Assessment and Treatment Planning, HWB7 Interventions and Treatment, HWB8 Biomedical Investigation and Intervention Level: 1

Assessment

This stand alone assessment is relevant to any staff member required to carry out this activity to support safer blood transfusion by ensuring the correct blood component is given to the correct patient.

To achieve competency ALL core competencies (theoretical elements and performance criteria) contained in this document must be assessed and passed. Assessment can be performed on a one to one basis either in real time or via simulation. Following an individual's initial training a one off practical competency assessment must be undertaken or as per local training needs analysis. This practical assessment need not be repeated if there is on-going satisfactory performance but should be repeated if there is a period of greater than one year out of a workplace where regular transfusion is taking place. For further information or if difficulties are encountered please contact the local Hospital Transfusion Team.

References

British Committee for Standards in Haematology (BSCH) 2009 Guidelines for the administration of blood and blood components

http://www.bcsghguidelines.com/documents/Admin_blood_components_bcsgh_05012010.pdf

National Blood Transfusion Committee (2016): Requirements for training and assessment in Blood Transfusion

[National Blood Transfusion Committee Responses and Recommendations](#)

National Patient Safety Agency Safer Practice Notice (14) Right Patient, Right Blood (November 2006)

<http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=59805>

Skills for Health CHS 132 Obtain venous blood samples (June 2010)

<https://tools.skillsforhealth.org.uk/competence/show/html/id/2711/>

Author:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Practitioner Group
Owner:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Committee
Date of issue:	January 2017
Version:	5: Competency Assessment for Obtaining Venous Blood Samples
Approved by:	Yorkshire and the Humber Postgraduate Deanery
Review date:	January 2020

Assessee to keep this completed document as evidence of assessment.

Staff Name:	Name of assessor:
Job title:	Job title:
Grade:	Signature:
Ward/Speciality:	Date of assessment:
Hospital:	Pass <input type="checkbox"/> Refer <input type="checkbox"/>
Signature:	
Unique Numeric identifier/ESR number (if known)	

Knowledge & assessment standards

To achieve clinical competency you are required to undertake and pass **both** the theoretical AND practical (performance criteria) elements of this assessment.

Theoretical Element

Theory can be demonstrated by correctly answering the questions in the theoretical element of this assessment below.

Question	Answers	✓ or x
What policies and guidelines are in place regarding obtaining venous blood samples?		
Who are you accountable to?		
What are your legal and professional responsibilities* with regards to venepuncture? * i.e. Legal and moral duty of a professional to apply his or her knowledge in ways that benefit the patient, and the Trust, without causing any injury to either		
What are the risks associated with bleeding more than one patient at a time?		
What is an open question?		

Question	Answers	✓ or x
Why are open questions used when identifying patients?		
What is the correct procedure if the patient is unconscious or unable to give verbal identification?		
What would you do if you were asked to take a pre-transfusion sample from an in-patient without an identity band?		
What factors do you take into consideration when selecting the best site to use?		
Name the structures/veins found in the forearm which may be used during venepuncture.		
How do you minimise discomfort and address individuals concerns?		
What complications and problems may occur during venepuncture, how do you recognise them and what action do you take?		
List signs that might indicate an arterial puncture.		
What action would you take if you accessed an artery?		
What technique problems can cause haemolysis in a blood sample?		
What advice is given on caring for the site?		
What information must be present on the request form for pre-transfusion tests?		
When and how are blood samples labelled?		
What are the dangers of using pre-labelled sample tubes?		

Observational assessment

Performance Criteria Candidate to achieve ALL criteria to demonstrate competence	Please tick relevant box to indicate if pass or refer	
	Yes	No
1. Did the member of staff check each of the following are present on the transfusion request form:		
a) first name, last name?		
b) date of birth?		
c) unique numeric identifier?		
2. Did the member of staff:		
a) Introduce themselves to the patient?		
b) Gain valid consent to carry out the procedure?		
3a. Patient identification for conscious patient Did the member of staff <u>ask the patient</u> to state their:		
a) first name, last name?		
b) date of birth?		
Did the member of staff check:		
c) patient's response matched those details on the wristband or other attached identifier?		
d) patient's wristband details including the unique numeric identifier matched those on the transfusion request form?		
3b. Patient identification for unconscious patient or patient unable to verbally respond		
Did the member of staff check following details on the wristband or other attached identifier match those on the transfusion request form:		
a) first name, last name?		
b) date of birth?		
c) unique numeric identifier?		
4. Personal checks		
a) Did the member of staff wash their hands?		
b) Did the member of staff use personal protective equipment?		
c) Select and prepare appropriate equipment for obtaining blood sample?		
5. Taking the venous blood sample		
Did the member of staff:		
a) prepare the skin properly?		
b) use the tourniquet appropriately?		
c) minimise discomfort for the patient?		
d) take blood appropriately alongside other sampling procedures?		
e) monitor the patient's responses?		
f) remove needles using an appropriate technique?		
g) apply a dressing at the end of the procedure?		

Author:

Owner:

Date of issue:

Version:

Approved by:

Review date:

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Practitioner Group

Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Committee

January 2017

5: Competency Assessment for Obtaining Venous Blood Samples

Yorkshire and the Humber Postgraduate Deanery

January 2020

Performance Criteria Candidate to achieve ALL criteria to demonstrate competence	Please tick relevant box to indicate if pass or refer	
	Yes	No
6. Labelling the blood sample once taken		
Did the member of staff label the blood sample at the patient's side as soon as it was taken? (NB: transfusion samples must be handwritten)		
Does the label include the following information:		
a) first name, last name?		
b) date of birth?		
c) unique numeric identifier?		
d) gender?		
e) date/time?		
f) identity of the person taking the blood sample?		
7. Did the member of staff complete the transfusion request form with the following:		
a) identity of the person taking the blood sample?		
b) the date/time of the blood sample?		
8. Did the member of staff bleed only one patient at a time?		
9. Was the blood sample despatched in the appropriate manner?		
10. Did the member of staff dispose of the used equipment safely?		
11. Did the member of staff document relevant information in the appropriate records?		

Referral or failure to pass: If the staff member/assessee has not achieved all of the performance criteria and the theoretical element of this assessment, then competency has not been achieved. Please refer to local policy for subsequent actions.

Administrative Action now required

1. Original copy of this document to be held by the staff member/assessee. Any additional copies of documentation to be kept as per local policy.
2. **The staff member/assessee is responsible for retaining this document and presenting it to their next employer.** Failure to present this document when asked by subsequent employers will result in the staff member having to repeat the assessment.
3. The competency is valid following an individual's initial training and from the date of the one off practical competency assessment.
4. The assessor is responsible for completing all sections, **detaching the final section (page 7) and returning it to the local person responsible for ESR data entry and/or local Hospital Transfusion Team contact as per local policy.** (Failure to record achievement on to ESR will result in the assessment not being 'transferable' & will result in the staff member/assessee having to repeat the assessment when they move Trusts).

Author:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Practitioner Group
Owner:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Committee
Date of issue:	January 2017
Version:	5: Competency Assessment for Obtaining Venous Blood Samples
Approved by:	Yorkshire and the Humber Postgraduate Deanery
Review date:	January 2020

This page is intentionally blank.

Author:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Practitioner Group
Owner:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Committee
Date of issue:	January 2017
Version:	5: Competency Assessment for Obtaining Venous Blood Samples
Approved by:	Yorkshire and the Humber Postgraduate Deanery
Review date:	January 2020

✂-----Please complete, detach return this section to local contact*-----
(You may also wish to photocopy this section for your records).

Obtaining Venous Blood Samples

To be completed by the assessor: I confirm that the staff member named below has completed the required theoretical and practical elements and achieved understanding and competence in obtaining venous blood samples.

Staff Name:	Name of assessor:																																								
<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>																																									
Job title:	Job title:																																								
Grade:	Signature:																																								
Ward/Speciality:	Date of assessment:																																								
Hospital:	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>																																								
Signature:	Refer <input type="checkbox"/>																																								
Unique Numeric identifier/ESR number (if known)																																									

***The local contact is where successful achievement of competency needs to be recorded locally and onto ESR (electronic staff record). The contact may be in either; the Post Graduate department, the Transfusion Team and/or the ESR department**

Author:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Practitioner Group
Owner:	Yorkshire and the Humber Regional Transfusion Committee
Date of issue:	January 2017
Version:	5: Competency Assessment for Obtaining Venous Blood Samples
Approved by:	Yorkshire and the Humber Postgraduate Deanery
Review date:	January 2020