

## CHS16 Undertake care for individuals with nasogastric tubes

### OVERVIEW

This standard covers undertaking care of individuals' with nasogastric tubes. It is applicable in any care setting where an individual has a nasogastric tube in position for the purpose of emptying stomach/contents. This standard involves aspirating stomach/intestinal contents via the nasogastric tube, measuring and recording nasogastric fluid output and removing nasogastric tubes, as and when directed. All of these activities must be undertaken using an aseptic technique and following local guidelines and procedures. Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies. Version No 1

### KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You will need to know and understand:

1. the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to undertaking care for individuals with nasogastric tubes
2. your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
3. the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
4. the importance of applying standard precautions to undertaking care for individuals with nasogastric tubes and the potential consequences of poor practice
5. K5 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
6. what valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken
7. why individuals should be supported and told about the nature of the nasogastric aspiration or removal
8. the concerns and worries which individuals or client groups may have in relation to some clinical procedures
9. the adverse reactions which may occur during and following procedures and how to identify and deal with these
10. the anatomy and physiology of the upper gastrointestinal system related to the

- aspiration and removal of nasogastric tubes
- 11.the normal appearance and content of stomach/intestinal fluid
  - 12.potential abnormal appearance and content of stomach/intestinal fluid depending on the individual's presenting medical condition
  - 13.how aseptic technique contributes to the control of infection
  - 14.potential sources of contamination when undertaking aspiration and removal of nasogastric tubes and appropriate measures to reduce or deal with them
  - 15.the potential consequences of contamination of nasogastric tubes and equipment used for aspiration
  - 16.the equipment and materials required for the aspiration and removal of nasogastric tubes
  - 17.why resources should be prepared before you start the activity
  - 18.the personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
  - 19.the importance of maintaining the correct level of cleanliness for the aspiration and removal of nasogastric tubes
  - 20.the importance of following procedures for aspiration and removal of nasogastric tubes exactly as specified, and the potential effects of not doing so
  - 21.the importance of packing up used equipment and materials and covering receptacles containing nasogastric aspirate prior to leaving the immediate care area
  - 22.how and where to dispose of:
    - 1.used equipment and materials
    - 2.nasogastric aspirate
  - 23.why questions which are beyond your role or knowledge need to be passed onto the appropriate member of the care team
  - 24.the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff
  - 25.the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records
  - 26.the specific records required for reporting on gastric aspirate and the removal of nasogastric tubes

## PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You must be able to do the following:

- 1.apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and take other appropriate health and safety measures
- 2.check the individual's identity and the confirm the planned activity
- 3.give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
- 4.gain valid consent to carry out the planned nasogastric activity
- 5.confirm all equipment and materials for aspirating or removing the nasogastric tube is:
  - 1.appropriate to the procedure
  - 2.fit for purpose
- 6.ensure the individual is positioned in a way that will:
  - 1.ensure their safety and comfort
  - 2.facilitate aspiration of the nasogastric tube

- 3.facilitate removal of the nasogastric tube
- 7.carry out the nasogastric aspiration or removal:
  - 1.at an appropriate time according to the individual's plan of care
  - 2.using appropriate techniques
  - 3.using equipment in line with manufacturer's instructions
  - 4.in a manner which optimises the patient's comfort and dignity and minimises pain and trauma
- 8.observe the individual throughout the activity, recognise and report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the activity and take the appropriate action
- 9.ensure the nasogastric tube and any drainage bags are securely attached in a way that prevent discomfort and promotes dignity of the individual
- 10.ensure the individual is made comfortable following nasogastric aspiration or removal and dispose of waste according to agreed procedures
- 11.observe nasogastric aspirate for any change in appearance and promptly inform the appropriate member of the care team
- 12.measure and record the volume of aspirate and correctly using the required documentation
- 13.report your findings and activity to the appropriate member of the care team

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This National Occupational Standard was developed by Skills for Health.This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):Dimension: HWB5 Provision of care to meet health and wellbeing needs