BDS2 Obtain and test capillary blood samples

OVERVIEW

This workforce competence covers the collection of capillary blood samples using either manual or automated lancets, testing of the sample where this is required or sending it elsewhere for laboratory testing. Samples may include those for blood sugar determination, haemoglobin levels and Guthrie testing of the new born.

Users of this competence will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

This competence replaced Diab_FA3 during rationalisation of the database.

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

You need to apply:

Legislation, policy and good practice

K1 A factual awareness of the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols which affect your work practice in relation to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples

K2 A working understanding of your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols

K3 A working understanding of the importance of obtaining positive confirmation of individuals’ identity and consent before starting the procedure, and effective ways of getting positive identification

K4 A working understanding of the importance of confidentiality and the measures taken to ensure it is appropriately maintained

K5 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...
K6 A working understanding of the importance of applying standard precautions and the potential consequences of poor practice

K7 A working understanding 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

K8 A factual awareness of the structure and purpose of capillary blood vessels

K9 A factual awareness of blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting

K10 A working understanding of the normal or expected results for particular tests and therefore what constitutes an abnormal result

Care and support of the individual

K11 A factual awareness of the different reasons for obtaining capillary blood samples taken

K12 A working understanding of the concerns that individuals may have in relation to capillary blood sampling

K13 A working understanding of the sites which can be used for capillary sampling and what the factors that need to be considered in selecting the best site to use (including the individual's own preference)

K14 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

K15 A working understanding of the limits of your role and the circumstances in which you would need to refer to another person

K16 A working understanding of the contra-indications which indicate that capillary sampling should be stopped and advice sought

K17 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

K18 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

K19 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
K20 A working understanding of the equipment and materials are needed for capillary blood sampling and testing

K21 A working understanding of the sorts of equipment and materials which are sensitive to environmental changes and how this affects their storage and use

K22 A working understanding of which equipment and instruments are re-usable and which must be discarded after one use

K23 A factual awareness of the different types of containers/slides which are used for collecting capillary blood samples

K24 A factual awareness of the types of samples which have particular packaging, storage and transfer requirements and what these requirements are

K25 A working understanding of how and when to label samples if required

Procedures and techniques

K26 A working understanding of the importance of ensuring sites for capillary blood sampling are cleaned effectively, and how and when this should be done

K27 A working understanding of the process and procedure for obtaining capillary blood samples, including the correct sequence of actions

K28 A working understanding of the factors involved in the procedures which could affect the quality of the blood

K29 A working understanding of the importance of collecting capillary blood samples of the right quality, and how to achieve this

K30 A working understanding of the complications and problems may occur during the collection of capillary blood samples, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take

K31 A working understanding of how to perform relevant tests

Records and documentation

K32 A working understanding of how to record test results, and the importance of clear and accurate documentation

K33 A working understanding of the information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation when sending capillary blood samples to the laboratory

K34 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

K35 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
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

You need to:

1. apply **standard precautions** for infection control and any other relevant **health and safety measures**

2. select and prepare the site for obtaining the capillary blood sample immediately before the blood is obtained, in line with organisational procedures

3. obtain the required amount of blood of the required quality, using the selected **materials and equipment** into the container(s) and/or onto the appropriate strips or slides, in the correct order and in a manner which will cause minimum discomfort to the individual

4. 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

5. apply pressure to the puncture site following completion to encourage closure and blood clotting

6. promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any **adverse reaction/event** to the procedure and act accordingly

7. label the sample, if it is not to be tested immediately clearly, accurately and legibly, using computer prepared labels where appropriate

8. place sample in the appropriate **packaging**, ensure the correct request forms are attached and put in the appropriate place for transport or storage if required

9. ensure immediate transport of the sample to the relevant department when blood sampling and investigations are urgent

10. document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records

11. when appropriate, **test** the blood sample correctly using the appropriate method in line with organisational procedure

12. recognise and interpret results accurately or pass them onto an appropriate staff member for interpretation

13. record results fully and accurately in the appropriate manner and place and report to the appropriate staff member

14. give clear and accurate information to the individual about the results of tests, if available and within the limits of your responsibility
15. respond to questions from the individual clearly and accurately in an appropriate manner, level and pace or refer them to an appropriate staff member.

16. ensure that the individual is informed if any further action is required/the next stage in the process

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION