Unit 4222-308 Obtain and test capillary blood samples (HSC 2026)

Level: **3**
Credit value: **4**
UAN: **T/601/8850**

Unit aim

This unit is aimed at health & social care workers involved in the collection of capillary blood samples using either manual or automated lancets and testing of the sample where this is required.

Learning outcomes

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

1. Understand how legislation, policy and good practice guidelines relate to obtaining and testing blood samples
2. Understand the anatomy and physiology in relation to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples
3. Be able to prepare to obtain capillary blood samples
4. Be able to obtain capillary blood samples
5. Be able to test and record the results of blood samples
6. Be able to pass on the results of blood samples

Guided learning hours

It is recommended that **30** 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 CHS131.

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 3, 4, 5 and 6 must be assessed in a real work environment.

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Assessment Criteria

Outcome 1 Understand how legislation, policy and good practice guidelines relate to obtaining and testing blood samples

The learner can:

1. describe current legislation, national guidelines, local policies, protocols and good practice guidelines which relate to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples.

Outcome 2 Understand the anatomy and physiology in relation to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples

The learner can:

1. describe the structure and purpose of capillary blood vessels
2. explain blood clotting processes and the factors that influence blood clotting.

Outcome 3 Be able to prepare to obtain capillary blood samples

The learner can:

1. confirm the individual's identity and obtain **valid consent**
2. select and prepare an appropriate site for obtaining the sample taking into account the individual's preferences
3. provide support and reassurance to address the individual's needs and concerns
4. communicate accurate information in a way that is sensitive to the individual's personal beliefs and preferences.

Outcome 4 Be able to obtain capillary blood samples

The learner can:

1. apply health and safety measures relevant to the procedure and environment
2. apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control
3. describe the different reasons for obtaining capillary blood samples
4. obtain blood samples of the required volume and quantity causing minimal discomfort to the individual
5. use the selected materials, equipment and containers/slides in accordance with agreed procedures
6. obtain blood samples in the correct sequence when obtaining multiple samples
7. ensure stimulation of blood flow
8. select alternative sites where necessary
9. carry out the correct procedure for encouraging closure and blood clotting at the site
10. respond to any indication of an adverse reaction, complication or problem during the procedure
11. demonstrate correct labelling, packaging, transportation, storage and use of appropriate attached documentation in relation to blood samples to include:
    - Legibility of labelling and documentation
    - Temperature control of storage
    - Immediacy of transportation
12. explain the actions to be taken if complications and problems occur during the collection of capillary blood samples, including contra-indications.

Outcome 5 Be able to test and record the results of blood samples

The learner can:

1. test the sample, using the approved method in line with organisational procedure
2. describe normal or expected results for particular tests
3. recognise and interpret normal, expected and abnormal results
4. ensure that results are passed on to an appropriate staff member for interpretation as required
5. record results fully and accurately and forward according to local requirements.

Outcome 6 Be able to pass on the results of blood samples

The learner can:

1. communicate the results of the tests and any further action required to the individual
2. respond to questions and concerns from individuals, providing accurate information
3. refer issues outside own responsibility to an appropriate staff member.

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Additional guidance

- **Valid consent** must be in line with agreed UK country definition.