

Unit 54: Ambulatory ECG Monitoring

Level:	4
Unit type:	Optional (Cardiac Physiology)
Credit value:	20
Guided learning hours:	160

Unit summary

The aim of this unit is for you to be able to fit and remove ambulatory ECG devices and analyse the recording (excluding pacing and inherited disease). You will also be expected to apply knowledge of abnormal ECG rhythms and produce a factual report. You will be expected to build your patient-centred professional practice to enable you to undertake this skill safely in the workplace.

Unit assessment requirements

There are no specific assessment requirements for this unit. Please refer to the assessment strategy in *Annexe B*.

Additional information

It is suggested that learners will have completed the following units:

- **Level 4 Unit 53: Recognising ECG Abnormalities in Adults**
- **Level 2 Unit 76: Fitting a 24hr Ambulatory ECG Monitor**

or have appropriate experience before completing this unit.

AC1.2 includes:

- how to choose the correct monitoring period based on the frequency of symptoms
- alternative monitoring for less frequent symptoms, i.e. weeks and months between symptoms.

AC1.3 includes:

- assessment of individuals in whom an arrhythmia is suspected, including:
 - syncope
 - near syncope or dizziness
 - palpitations
- individuals who have had a cerebrovascular accident in whom paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (AF) or atrial flutter is suspected
- assessment of the potential risk of developing an arrhythmia, e.g. prior to discharge from hospital after a myocardial infarction
- assessment of the response to anti-arrhythmic treatment.

AC1.6 includes:

- all relevant information related to consent, tests, investigations and treatment.

Learning outcome 2 should be achieved in a range of routine individuals and in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure.

AC2.1 includes:

- infection control
- health and safety, including patient safety.

AC2.2 includes:

- preparing the environment for ambulatory ECG monitoring
- preparing the equipment for ambulatory ECG monitoring
- explaining the test to the individual, adapting communication to meet the needs of the individual
- gaining and documenting informed consent
- explaining the importance of introducing yourself and your role as a learner
- gathering all required information from the individual, including current medication.

AC2.3 includes:

- choosing the appropriate electrodes for ambulatory ECG monitoring
- explaining the reasons for the choice of electrode positioning
- choosing the optimal electrode position for ambulatory ECG monitoring
- preparing the individual's skin and applying electrodes, or explaining to the individual how to prepare their own skin and apply the electrodes
- connecting the ECG leads and recorder to ensure individual comfort
- explaining the use of the patient diary
- explaining how to activate the device as necessary
- explaining any safety issues and the need to protect the monitor from damage
- maintaining records
- minimising artefacts.

AC2.4 includes:

- removing the equipment from the individual
- discussing the individual experiences during the recording, clarifying symptoms and diary entries
- explaining the procedure for receiving results.

AC3.1 includes:

- correlating symptoms of the individual with ECG findings
- checking the accuracy of automated evaluation
- evaluating the technical quality of ambulatory ECG recordings, identify suboptimal recordings
- selecting ECG tracings sufficient to illustrate and support the final evaluation.

AC3.2 includes:

- using appropriate methods of:

- analysing
- summarising
- displaying information.

AC3.3 includes:

- in accordance with applicable:
 - legislation
 - protocols
 - guidelines.

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

To pass this unit, learners need to demonstrate that they can meet all the learning outcomes for the unit. The assessment criteria outline the requirements that the learner is expected to meet to achieve the learning outcomes and the unit.

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
1	Understand the principles and practice of ambulatory ECG (AECG) monitoring	1.1	Explain the characteristics of AECG monitoring recording equipment			
		1.2	Explain the limitations and optimisation of AECG monitoring			
		1.3	Explain the indications and contraindications for AECG monitoring of arrhythmias			
		1.4	Discuss the development of AECG ambulatory monitoring as a tool for the detection of myocardial ischaemia			
		1.5	Explain the purpose of continuous and intermittent (event and loop) recorders			

Learning outcomes		Assessment criteria		Evidence type	Portfolio reference	Date
2	Be able to perform ambulatory ECG (AECG) monitoring	2.1	Evaluate the departmental Standard Operating Procedure for AECG monitoring			
		2.2	Prepare for AECG monitoring			
		2.3	Set up AECG recorders in a range of adult patients			
		2.4	Remove the AECG recording equipment			
3	Be able to analyse ambulatory ECG recordings and produce a factual report	3.1	Operate a playback/analyser system and analyse the results in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedure			
		3.2	Produce a factual report			
		3.3	Keep accurate, comprehensive and comprehensible records			

Learner name: _____

Date: _____

Learner signature: _____

Date: _____

Assessor signature: _____

Date: _____

Internal verifier signature: _____

Date: _____

(if sampled)