

Unit 100: Assist in Receiving, Handling and Dispatching Clinical Specimens

Level:	2
Unit type:	Optional
Credit value:	2
Guided learning hours:	17

Unit Aim

This unit is aimed at those who assist others to receive, handle and dispatch clinical specimens. Learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge, understanding and skills related to the use of appropriate containers and transport methods, whilst ensuring precautions related to infection control are upheld.

Assessment requirements

This unit must be assessed in line with *Skills for Health Assessment Principles for Qualifications that Assess Occupational Competence* document. Detailed information can be found in *Annexe A* of the qualification specification.

Evidence for skills within learning outcome 3 must come from real work activities.

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1 Understand how health and safety measures are implemented when receiving, handling and dispatching clinical specimens	1.1 Explain how the standard precautions for infection control apply when receiving, handling and dispatching specimens
	1.2 Describe how to avoid compromising the sterile field
	1.3 Outline the actions to take when there is a breakdown in the sterile field
2 Understand reasons for using different containers and transport media for different clinical specimens	2.1 Identify different types and uses of containers and transport media used in the perioperative environment
	2.2 Explain differences between the types of specimens and how these are received, handled and dispatched
	2.3 Explain potential consequences of failing to follow procedure when handling, labelling and dispatching clinical specimens

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
3 Be able to assist others to receive, handle, label and dispatch clinical specimens	3.1 Apply standard precautions for infection control
	3.2 Implement health and safety measures relevant to handling clinical specimens
	3.3 Use the correct container and transport medium for the type of specimen as directed by the appropriate person
	3.4 Receive, handle, label, dispatch and record information on specimens in line with local policies and protocols as directed by the appropriate person
	3.5 Notify the appropriate person of any queries relating to clinical specimens which are beyond own competence
	3.6 Update records in line with local policies and protocols

Additional information about the unit

Exemplification of terms used in assessment criteria:

The **sterile field** is a specified area that is considered free of viable microorganisms. This is often an area immediately around an individual that has been prepared for a surgical procedure. The sterile field includes the scrubbed team members, and all furniture and fixtures in the area.

An **appropriate person** may include registered practitioners or other colleagues.

Standard precautions are the precautions considered sufficient to reduce the risk of harm or injury by transmission of pathogens.