

Unit 136: Obtain and Test Capillary Blood Samples

Level:	3
Unit type:	Optional
Credit value:	4
Guided learning hours:	30

Unit Aim

This unit is aimed at workers involved in the collection of capillary blood samples using either manual or automated lancets and testing of the sample where this is required. Caution must be applied with taking multiple samples from neonates or children under 1 year old, as venepuncture may be the preferred method depending on the type of sample and quantity required.

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 outcomes 3-6 must come from real work activities.

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1 Understand current legislation, national guidelines, policies, procedures and protocols in relation to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples	1.1 Summarise current legislation, national guidelines, local policies, procedures, and protocols which relate to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples
2 Understand the anatomy, physiology in relation to, and the purpose of, obtaining and testing capillary blood samples	2.1 Describe the structure and purpose of capillary blood vessels
	2.2 Explain blood clotting processes and the factors that influence blood clotting for individuals
	2.3 Describe reasons for obtaining capillary blood samples
	2.4 Describe potential changes in anatomy and physiology following the collection of blood sample

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
3 Be able to prepare to obtain capillary blood samples	3.1 Confirm the individual's identity and obtain valid consent
	3.2 Communicate with the individual in a manner which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is appropriate to their communication needs and abilities • provides accurate and relevant information • provides support and reassurance • addresses needs and concerns • is respectful of personal beliefs and preferences
	3.3 Select and prepare appropriate equipment for obtaining the capillary blood sample
	3.4 Select and prepare an appropriate site for obtaining the sample, taking into account the individual's age, needs and preferences
4 Be able to obtain capillary blood samples	4.1 Apply health and safety measures relevant to the procedure and environment
	4.2 Apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control
	4.3 Use the selected materials, equipment and containers/slides in accordance with agreed procedures
	4.4 Obtain blood samples in the correct sequence and of the required volume and quantity
	4.5 Carry out the correct procedure for encouraging closure and blood clotting at the site
	4.6 Explain the correct process for labelling, packaging, transporting and storing blood samples
	4.7 Explain the actions to be taken if complications and problems occur during the collection of capillary blood samples, including contra-indications

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
5 Be able to test and record the results of blood samples	5.1 Test the sample using the approved method in line with organisational procedure
	5.2 Describe normal or expected range of results for particular tests
	5.3 Recognise and interpret normal, expected and abnormal results
	5.4 Ensure that results are passed on to an appropriate staff member for interpretation as required
	5.5 Record results fully and accurately and forward according to local requirements
6 Be able to pass on the results of blood samples	6.1 Communicate the results of the tests and any further action required to the individual
	6.2 Respond to questions and concerns from individuals , providing accurate information
	6.3 Refer issues outside own responsibility to an appropriate staff member

Additional information about the unit

Exemplification of terms used in assessment criteria:

Individual refers to someone requiring care or support; it will usually mean the person or people supported by the learner.

Valid consent (must be in line with agreed UK country definition) may include:

- The individual must have the mental capacity to make the decision
- The individual must have sufficient non-bias information to make an informed choice
- The individual must not be pressured into making a decision and must give consent freely.

Preferences may be based on:

- Beliefs
- Values
- Culture
- Aspirations
- Wishes.