

## Unit 42: Receive and Handle Clinical Specimens Within the Sterile Field

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

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### Unit Aim

This unit is aimed at those who work in a scrubbed role to receive and handle clinical specimens. Learners will have the opportunity to develop the ability to receive and handle clinical specimens within the sterile field.

### 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 2 must come from real work activities.

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
1 Understand how to receive and handle clinical specimens within the sterile field in line with health and safety guidance	1.1 Identify different types of specimens received and handled within the perioperative environment
	1.2 State requirements for handling and transporting both frozen and non-frozen clinical specimens to ensure their condition is maintained
	1.3 Identify different types and uses of container and transport media in the perioperative environment
	1.4 Explain the potential consequences of poor practice related to handling, labelling and transporting clinical specimens
	1.5 Explain how to deal with hazards associated with receiving and handling clinical specimens
	1.6 Explain the consequences of the contamination of clinical specimens

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
2 Be able to receive and handle clinical specimens within the sterile field	2.1 Apply <b>standard precautions</b> for infection control
	2.2 Implement health and safety measures relevant to handling clinical specimens
	2.3 Obtain <b>valid consent</b> to collect clinical specimens
	2.4 Confirm correct container and transport medium for the type of clinical specimen being collected
	2.5 Receive specimens in line with local policies and procedures
	2.6 Maintain the <b>sterile field</b> when passing specimens to the <b>appropriate person</b>
	2.7 Ensure specimens are labelled and documentation has been completed in line with local policies and procedures
	2.8 Process and dispatch clinical specimens in line with local policies and procedures

## Additional information about the unit

Exemplification of terms used in assessment criteria:

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

**Valid consent:** 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.

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** is possibly someone senior who has responsibility for receiving and processing specimens.