

## Unit 71: Obtain and Test Specimens from Individuals

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Level:	2
Unit type:	Optional
Credit value:	3
Guided learning hours:	20

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### Unit Aim

The aim of this unit is to provide the learner with the knowledge and skills required to obtain and test specimens from individuals in a health care setting.

### 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.

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
1 Understand relevant legislation, policy and good practice in relation to obtaining, carrying, testing and storing specimens	1.1 Outline current legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols which affect working practice
	1.2 Identify the hazards and <b>other consequences</b> related to incorrect labelling of <b>specimens</b>
2 Understand the processes involved in obtaining and testing specimens from individuals	2.1 Identify the different types of <b>specimens</b> that may be obtained
	2.2 Describe the tests and investigations that may be carried out upon the <b>specimens</b>
	2.3 Identify the correct equipment and materials used in the collection and transport of <b>specimens</b>

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
3 Be able to prepare to obtain specimens from individuals	3.1 Introduce yourself to the <b>individual</b> , and confirm the <b>individual's</b> identity
	3.2 Maintain a safe and healthy working <b>environment</b> , using infection prevention and control techniques
	3.3 Explain the procedure to the <b>individual</b> and obtain <b>valid consent</b>
	3.4 Ensure the <b>individual's</b> privacy and dignity is maintained at all times
	3.5 Identify any aspects of the <b>individual's</b> ethnic and religious background which might affect the procedure
	3.6 Communicate with the <b>individual</b> in a way appropriate to their needs and preferences
	3.7 Demonstrate that the required preparations have been completed, including materials and equipment
4 Be able to obtain specimens from individuals	4.1 Provide the correct container for the <b>individual</b> to be able to provide the specimen for themselves or collect the specimen where the <b>individual</b> cannot provide the specimen for themselves
	4.2 Describe possible problems in collecting <b>specimens</b> and how and when these should be reported
	4.3 Describe the signs and symptoms that an <b>individual</b> is in pain, distress or discomfort and explain how you would respond to these
	4.4 Demonstrate the correct collection, labelling and storage of <b>specimens</b>
	4.5 Complete and attach relevant documentation

<b>Learning outcomes</b> <b>The learner will:</b>	<b>Assessment criteria</b> <b>The learner can:</b>
5 Be able to test specimens	5.1 Explain tests for a range of <b>specimens</b> obtained
	5.2 Demonstrate appropriate health and safety measures relevant to the procedure and <b>environment</b>
	5.3 Demonstrate effective hand washing techniques and correct use of PPE
	5.4 Demonstrate safe disposal of clinical waste
6 Be able to report on the outcomes on the test of specimens	6.1 Demonstrate the correct process for reporting and recording test results
	6.2 Describe the actions to be taken when the results are outside the normal range
	6.3 Communicate test results in accordance with agreed ways of working
	6.4 Describe why it is important to understand the implications the test results may have on the <b>individual</b>

## Additional information about the unit

Exemplification of terms used in assessment criteria:

**Other consequences** may include:

- Treatment being delayed
- Wrong treatment given
- Condition could worsen or even result in death
- Stress and upset for the individual
- Further discomfort or pain experienced in retaking the samples.

**Specimens** may include:

- Urine
- Saliva
- Faeces
- Blood
- Sputum
- Tissue.

**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.

**Environment** may include:

- Ensuring privacy
- Making sure that there are no hazards
- That all equipment is ready and prepared
- That all equipment is in good working order
- Ensuring that there is enough room to carry out the procedure.