

Unit 74: Perform Routine Electrocardiograph (ECG) Procedures

Level:	3
Unit type:	Optional
Credit value:	4
Guided learning hours:	28

Unit Aim

This unit covers the performance of recording electrocardiograph (ECG) at rest and ambulatory electrocardiograph (ECG) procedures. The unit includes connection and disconnection of electrodes and acquisition of data ready for analysis. The procedures may be performed in a number of care settings such as outpatient departments, ward areas and GP practices.

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 and 4 must come from real work activities.

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
1 Understand current legislation, national guidelines, policies, protocols and good practice which impact on own role when performing routine electrocardiograph procedures	1.1 Summarise the current legislation, national guidelines, policies, protocols and good practice guidelines for performing routine electrocardiograph procedures
	1.2 Explain own responsibilities and accountability in relation to current legislation, national guidelines, policies, protocols and good practice guidelines
	1.3 Explain the actions to take if the task surpasses your limitations of expertise
	1.4 Explain the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
2 Understand the purpose and functions of electrocardiographs	2.1 Explain the purpose of electrocardiograph procedures
	2.2 Describe the type, common characteristics and set up requirements of recording devices used in electrocardiograph procedures
	2.3 Explain the structure and function of the heart
	2.4 Describe a normal electrocardiograph and relate this to the conduction system of the heart
	2.5 Describe the correct positioning of electrodes for at rest and ambulatory procedures and why these positions are important
	2.6 Identify potential sources of artefact and explain how to recognise them
3 Be able to prepare to carry out routine electrocardiograph procedures	3.1 Maintain a safe and healthy working environment, using infection prevention and control techniques including hand washing, sanitisation, disinfection and personal protective equipment (PPE)
	3.2 Implement health and safety measures specifically relevant to routine electrocardiograph procedures
	3.3 Confirm the individual's identity, reason for referral and obtain valid consent
	3.4 Confirm the individual is fit to undergo the procedure
	3.5 Inform the individual and carers on the procedure and requirements for their compliance
	3.6 Identify any factors or special needs which may affect the test or test results
	3.7 Seek guidance where alternative arrangements are required to meet special needs
	3.8 Establish the suitability of the equipment for the procedure
	3.9 Prepare sites and position electrodes, considering any special needs that have been identified

Learning outcomes The learner will:	Assessment criteria The learner can:
4 Be able to carry out routine electrocardiograph procedures	4.1 Inform the individual and their carers on the procedure and the next action
	4.2 Recognise and respond to the signs and symptoms that an individual is in pain, or discomfort to maximise comfort and well-being
	4.3 Check that an individual's privacy and dignity is maintained at all times
	4.4 Communicate information in a way that is sensitive to the personal beliefs and preferences of the individual
	4.5 Encourage the individual to relax and remain immobile throughout a resting electrocardiograph
	4.6 Check the individual understands the need for recording signs and symptoms, throughout an ambulatory electrocardiograph
	4.7 Label documents and recording devices in line with local policy and protocol

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.

Special needs may include the need to use alternative positions for placing the electrodes due to dressings, sound supports, limbs missing etc.