

## Assessment of Competence

**Competency Number: 8**

**Clinical Skill: Obtaining Specimens of Faeces, Sputum and Urine (excluding clean specimen of urine)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Aim:** To obtain a requested specimen.

**Objectives:** The care worker will be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary for safely obtaining a specimen.
- Demonstrate competency in performing the procedure.

**Training:** Attendance at a training session and / or one to one training dependant on the location of staff

**Assessment:** Using performance criteria overleaf.

Those acting as trainers / assessors in clinical practice must hold an assessor qualification and must be certified as competent in the procedure themselves and be undertaking the procedure regularly.

**Risk Assessment:** **High** (risk to patient as a result of care worker error)

**Update:** Competence to be reviewed annually or sooner if limited practice or extended leave taken.

### Underpinning Knowledge

- Reasons for obtaining specimens.
- Working understanding of basic anatomy and physiology relevant to the type of specimen collection.
- Procedures and techniques including specimen types, usual tests, possible adverse effects.
- Materials and equipment used within the organisation for collection of specimens.
- How and where specimen can be stored if a delay in transport collection.
- Infection Prevention and Control measures such as hand hygiene and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves and aprons.
- A working understanding of what is meant by individual patient 'consent'.
- Importance of privacy and dignity.
- Knowledge of organisational policies, procedure and guidelines, and how to access.
- Factual awareness of legislation, policy and good practice such as sphere of competence.
- Clinical record keeping and documentation including the importance of keeping accurate records and appropriate onward referral.

I certify that the above-named worker has completed the theoretical assessment which covered the above:

<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Print Name:</b>	<b>Position:</b>

<b>Clinical Skill</b>	
<b>Performance Criteria: the care worker will:</b>	<b>Performed Safely (sign and date)</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate appropriate hand hygiene and use of PPE prior to, during and after the procedure.</li> <li>2. Explain the procedure, giving relevant information, support and reassurance, and gain informed consent.</li> <li>3. Establish if the individual is able to provide the specimen themselves or needs help and / or support.</li> <li>4. Ensure the appropriate containers (s) and pathology form are available.</li> <li>5. Take container and forms to the patient, complete details and check for accuracy.</li> <li>6. Ensure privacy and dignity at all times, taking into account individuals ethnic and religious background which might influence certain aspects of collecting specimens.</li> <li>7. Obtain specimen (s) from the individual in appropriate order and place in correct containers. Avoid contamination of the outside of the container.</li> <li>8. Ensure the specimen and form is sent to the laboratory in the plastic bag provided with container, following organisations procedure for transportation of specimens.</li> <li>9. Remove clinical waste.</li> <li>10. Accurately record the date, time and outcome of the procedure on the individual's care plan and / or specimen collection record.</li> <li>11. Report any concerns or problems obtaining the specimen to nurse in charge of ward, or district nurse / team leader, in accordance with support plan.</li> </ol>	
I confirm that the worker named overleaf has completed the assessment competently.	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Print Name:</b>	<b>Position:</b>
<b>Assessor Comments:</b>	
<b>Candidate Comments:</b>	
<b>Declaration</b> I confirm that I have had theoretical and practical instruction on how to safely and competently perform and agree to comply with the policy and procedures of the employing authority. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to maintain and update my knowledge and skills relating to this competency.	
<b>Signed:</b>	<b>Grade:</b>
<b>References / Bibliography:</b> Essential Nursing Skills (2001) Maggie Nicol et al, Mosby Press The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures (2008) 7 <sup>th</sup> ed. Health Care Competence CHS7 Obtain and test specimens from individuals, Skills for Health, August 2004	

**Competency Production Date:** November 2008

**Competency Review Date:** November 2010