

SFHAE1

Test for substance use



Overview

For this standard you need to test individuals to see if they have been using substances, such as alcohol and controlled drugs. This includes preparing to test for substance use, taking samples for testing, communicating and recording the results of testing.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 accurately identify those individuals to be tested for substance misuse
- P2 schedule tests in accordance with requirements
- P3 confirm that the environment in which the tests are to be carried out, and the procedures to be used comply with health, safety and security policies
- P4 make arrangements for tests to be witnessed, where required
- P5 confirm that those involved in carrying out tests are competent and fully understand their roles and the procedures to be followed
- P6 confirm the availability of all necessary equipment for testing.
- P7 confirm that individuals being tested understand the purpose of the tests, their rights, and any consequences of not submitting to the testing procedures
- P8 obtain any necessary consent for testing procedures from individuals, or from their carers or guardians where required
- P9 explain clearly and precisely to individuals what they have to do to provide their samples
- P10 provide opportunities for individuals to describe their substance use and explain possible false positives before they are tested
- P11 take samples according to clinical and organisational policies and procedures
- P12 ensure that the samples are authentic and have not been contaminated
- P13 promptly refer to relevant people if you suspect that samples are not authentic or have been contaminated
- P14 test samples, or refer them for testing, in accordance with clinical and organisational policies and procedures
- P15 follow supplier's/manufacture's instructions for use of equipment, where appropriate
- P16 dispose of samples safely, in accordance with clinical and organisational policies and procedures.
- P17 communicate the outcomes of the tests to individuals, and their carers or guardians where required, and ensure they understand the consequences
- P18 respect individuals' rights and the required standards of confidentiality
- P19 keep full and accurate records of tests and make reports in accordance with your organisation's policy and procedures

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the legal requirements relating to testing for substance misuse
- K2 health, safety and security policies and how to ensure the testing environment and procedures meets these
- K3 whom to refer to if you suspect that samples are not authentic or have been contaminated
- K4 the principles and processes of effective communication and how to apply them
- K5 the principles and standards of confidentiality and how to apply them
- K6 the importance of keeping full and accurate records and how to do so
- K7 the purpose of testing and the consequences of non-compliance for individuals
- K8 the importance of accurately identifying those individuals to be tested for substance use and how to do so
- K9 the competences required of those involved in testing for substance use
- K10 clinical and organisational procedures for testing for substance use
- K11 when testing needs to be witnessed and how to make appropriate arrangements
- K12 the importance of obtaining consent for substance testing, how to do so and when carer and/or guardians need to be involved
- K13 the possible causes of false readings in the types of tests carried out
- K14 the equipment required for testing for substance use and how to use this in accordance with supplier's/manufacturer's instructions
- K15 how to dispose of samples safely
- K16 individuals' rights when being tested for substance use

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning

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