

Specification of Competency Standards
for the Elderly Care Service Industry
Unit of Competency

Functional Area - Clinical Care

Title	Collect Blood Specimens
Code	106040L4
Range	This Unit of Competency is applicable to employees in the elderly care service industry who provide clinical care to elderlies. This Competency involves ability of critical analysis and assessment. According to relevant procedures and guidelines of the institution, the type of blood tests required and the distribution and conditions of elderlies' blood vessels, employees are required to take blood specimens from elderlies accurately, provide care for them after blood collection, handle the samples properly, monitor any possible complications and report the case to relevant personnel when appropriate.
Level	4
Credit	6 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Basic knowledge of taking blood samples</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the procedure and guidelines of the institution regarding taking blood samples • Understand the basic vascular anatomy and haematology, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Types of blood vessels ○ Different kinds of vascular structures and their distribution in the body ○ Blood components • Understand the types of common blood tests such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chemical components ○ Blood cell status ○ Bacterial culture • Understand the tools and techniques of taking blood sample such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Syringe ○ Blood sample tube ○ Transport equipment for blood samples • Understand the possible risks in taking blood samples • Understand the infection control measures for taking blood samples • Understand the proper techniques for taking blood samples • Understand the methods to handle the blood specimens • Understand the proper methods to record the blood sample taking procedures <p>2. taking blood specimens</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check doctor's instruction of taking blood samples such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Time ○ Type of tests ○ Special arrangement before taking blood samples, for example, fasting, or whether certain medication should be stopped • Assess elderlies' vascular distribution and condition, select the appropriate vein for taking blood samples • According to the purpose and type of blood test prescribed, select the appropriate tools and vein for taking blood samples such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Appropriate size and type of needles ○ Blood specimen tubes ○ Syringes

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill in the label of blood sample tube such as: name of patient, date and laboratory tests prescribed • Perform infection control measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Handling sharp tools ○ Perform proper hand washing procedures ○ Put gloves on and dispose of them afterwards ○ Dispose of used tools and blood-contaminated utensils • Explain the procedures to elderlies and protect their privacy, assist or guide the elderlies to stay still in a proper posture in order to reduce their discomfort when taking blood samples • Ensure the identity of the elderly, check the type of tests required and blood sample tube, perform procedures to collect blood including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply tourniquet in the right position on the limb ○ disinfect the skin ○ puncture the skin until the needle reaches the blood vessel ○ Draw an appropriate volume of blood into syringe with vacuum-extraction method • Perform care measures on the wound after taking blood samples such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Apply direct pressure to stop bleeding ○ Apply appropriate dressings • Properly handle blood samples, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Save blood in appropriate tubes ○ Store at the proper temperature ○ Use the proper method to transport the samples with the use of anti-leakage equipment ○ Properly label the blood samples such as name, date and type of tests prescribed. • Monitor possible complications after taking blood samples, such as: pain, bruises, hematoma, and bleeding • Properly record the blood taking process and type of tests prescribed • When the complications arise after taking blood sample, attend to the case immediately and refer the case to the healthcare professionals if necessary <p>3. Exhibit professionalism</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform the blood collection according to evidence-based guidelines • Make sure elderlies feel comfortable and at ease when taking blood samples • Protect the privacy of elderlies and be mindful of their feelings to maintain their dignity
Assessment Criteria	<p>The integrated outcome requirements of this Unit of Competency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to select the appropriate tools and method for blood collection, according to relevant procedures and guidelines of the institution, assessment of elderlies' vascular conditions and the blood tests prescribed; • Properly perform the blood collection and handle the blood samples; and • Record the blood collection process, monitor and handle any complications that may arise after taking blood samples.
Remark	<p>This Unit of Competency is currently practiced by the enrolled nurses, and registered nurses, phlebotomists or medical practitioners with professional and valid licenses.</p>