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.
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/manufacturer'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
Test for substance use

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
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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<th>Skills for Health</th>
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