Overview

This standard covers taking and recording routine clinical measurements to establish a baseline for future comparison or as part of the individual's care plan. The recording of such measurements must take into account the individual's overall condition and it is important that where you have any concerns regarding your ability to correctly take these clinical measurements, or if you are at all unsure of your readings, you must ask another competent member of staff to check your recordings to ensure the correct actions can be instigated without delay.

These activities could be done in a variety of care settings, including hospitals wards and other departments including out patients, nursing homes, the individual's own home and GP surgeries.

Users of this competence will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.
Undertake routine clinical measurements

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and apply other necessary health and safety measures
P2 check the individual's identity and confirm the planned action
P3 give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
P4 gain valid consent to carry out the planned measurement
P5 take the measurement at the prescribed time and in the prescribed sequence
P6 use the appropriate equipment in such a way as to obtain an accurate measurement
P7 reassure the individual throughout the measurement and answer questions and concerns from the individual clearly, accurately and concisely within own sphere of competence and responsibility
P8 refer any questions and concerns from or about the individual relating to issues outside your responsibility to the appropriate member of the care team
P9 seek a further recording of the measurement by another staff member if you are unable to obtain the reading or if you are unsure of the reading
P10 observe the condition of the individual throughout the measurement
P11 identify and respond immediately in the case of any significant changes in the individuals condition
P12 recognise and report without delay any measurement which falls outside of normal levels
P13 record your findings accurately and legibly in the appropriate documentation
P14 clean used equipment and return to usual place of storage after use
P15 dispose of waste and disposable equipment appropriately
You need to know and understand:

K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to undertaking routine clinical measurements

K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance

K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer

K4 the importance of applying standard precautions to undertaking physiological measurements and the potential consequences of poor practice

K5 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking clinical advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence

K6 what valid consent means and why it must be obtained and confirmed prior to actions being taken

K7 the clinical measurements are necessary and the importance of undertaking them as directed

K8 why it is necessary to adjust clothing and/or repositioning the individual for some clinical measurements

K9 the concerns and worries which individuals or client groups may have in relation to some clinical procedures

K10 the equipment used for different measurements

K11 any alternative equipment available

K12 the importance of ensuring it is appropriately prepared

K13 common conditions which necessitate the recording of physiological measurements within your work environment

K14 how blood pressure is maintained

K15 the differentiation between systolic and diastolic blood pressure and what is happening to the heart in each reading

K16 the normal limits of blood pressure

K17 conditions where blood pressure may be high or low

K18 how body temperature is maintained

K19 what normal body temperature is

K20 what is meant by pyrexia, hyper-pyrexia and hypothermia

K21 what is normal respiratory rate

K22 what affects respiratory rates in individuals, ill and well

K23 the normal limits of pulse rates

K24 what affects pulse rates – raising it and lowering it

K25 the sites in the body where pulse points can be found
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K26</th>
<th>why an individual's pulse oximetry needs to be measured</th>
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<td>K27</td>
<td>the findings when obtaining pulse oximetry, and the implications of these findings</td>
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<td>K28</td>
<td>what BMI is and how it is used in weight/dietary control</td>
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<td>K29</td>
<td>the factors that influence changes in clinical measurements</td>
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<td>K30</td>
<td>the importance of recording all information clearly and precisely in the relevant documentation, including whether the individual is receiving oxygen</td>
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<td>K31</td>
<td>the importance of reporting all information and any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence to the relevant member of staff without delay</td>
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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):
**SFHCHS19**  
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<tr>
<th>Developed by</th>
<th>Skills for Health</th>
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