Unit BDS2
Obtain and test capillary blood samples (Level 2)

About this workforce competence
This workforce competence covers the collection of capillary blood samples using either manual or automated lancets, testing of the sample where this is required or sending it elsewhere for laboratory testing.

Samples may include those for blood sugar determination, haemoglobin levels and Guthrie testing of the new born.

Links
This workforce competence links with the following dimensions and levels within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004).

Dimension: Health and Well-Being: 6 – Assessment and treatment planning related to the structure and function of physiological and psychological systems.

Level: 1

Origin
This workforce competence has been developed for Blood Donor Support by Skills for Health.

Key words and concepts
Additional protective equipment
Includes: types of personal protective equipment such as visors, protective eyewear and radiation protective equipment.

Contaminated
Includes: items 'contaminated' with body fluids, chemicals or radionuclides. Any pack/item opened and not used should be treated as contaminated.

Individual
The person from whom a capillary blood sample is being obtained.

Personal protective clothing
Includes items such as plastic aprons, gloves – both clean and sterile, footwear, dresses, trousers and shirts and all-in-one trouser suits.

These may be single-use disposable clothing or reusable clothing.
Unit BDS2
Obtain and test capillary blood samples (Level 2)

Scope
Adverse reaction/Event
Including:
- anxiety/fear
- pain
- re-bleed
- haematoma
- nerve damage.

Appropriate staff member:
Include:
- registered nurse
- midwife
- health visitor
- doctor
- social worker.

Materials and equipment
Including those for:
- preparing and caring for the sampling site
- obtaining the sample such as manual and automated lancets; capillary devices, blood sugar monitors, slides
- testing the sample
- recording results
- labelling
- single-use
- multiple use.

Packaging
Includes:
- bio-hazard bags
- trays
- sample racks.

Settings
Include:
- clinical environments (eg wards and clinics)
- non-clinical environments (eg individual's home, blood collection venues).
Standard precautions and health and safety measures
A series of interventions which will minimise or prevent infection and cross infection, including:
- hand washing/cleansing before during and after the activity
- the use of personal protective clothing and additional protective equipment when appropriate.

It also includes:
- handling contaminated items
- disposing of waste
- safe moving and handling techniques
- untoward incident procedures.

Test
Includes:
- electronically
- non-electronically.
Performance criteria

You need to:

1. apply standard precautions for infection control and any other relevant health and safety measures
2. select and prepare the site for obtaining the capillary blood sample immediately before the blood is obtained, in line with organisational procedures
3. obtain the required amount of blood of the required quality, using the selected materials and equipment into the container(s) and/or onto the appropriate strips or slides, in the correct order and in a manner which will cause minimum discomfort to the individual
4. take appropriate action to stimulate the flow of blood if there is a problem obtaining blood from the selected site, or choose an alternative site
5. apply pressure to the puncture site following completion to encourage closure and blood clotting
6. promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction/event to the procedure and act accordingly
7. label the sample, if it is not to be tested immediately clearly, accurately and legibly, using computer prepared labels where appropriate
8. place sample in the appropriate packaging, ensure the correct request forms are attached and put in the appropriate place for transport or storage if required
9. ensure immediate transport of the sample to the relevant department when blood sampling and investigations are urgent
10. document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records
11. when appropriate, test the blood sample correctly using the appropriate method in line with organisational procedure
12. recognise and interpret results accurately or pass them onto an appropriate staff member for interpretation
13. record results fully and accurately in the appropriate manner and place and report to the appropriate staff member
14. give clear and accurate information to the individual about the results of tests, if available and within the limits of your responsibility
15. respond to questions from the individual clearly and accurately in an appropriate manner, level and pace or refer them to an appropriate staff member
16. ensure that the individual is informed if any further action is required/the next stage in the process.
Knowledge and understanding

You need to apply:

**Legislation, policy and good practice**

K1 a factual awareness of the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols which affect your work practice in relation to obtaining and testing capillary blood samples

K2 a working understanding of your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and national legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols

K3 a working understanding of the importance of obtaining positive confirmation of individuals’ identity and consent before starting the procedure, and effective ways of getting positive identification

K4 a working understanding of the importance of confidentiality and the measures taken to ensure it is appropriately maintained

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

K6 a working understanding of the importance of applying standard precautions and the potential consequences of poor practice

K7 a working understanding of how infection is spread and how its spread may be limited, including how to use or apply the particular infection control measures needed when working with blood.

**Anatomy and physiology**

K8 a factual awareness of the structure and purpose of capillary blood vessels

K9 a factual awareness of blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting

K10 a working understanding of the normal or expected results for particular tests and therefore what constitutes an abnormal result.

**Care and support of the individual**

K11 a factual awareness of the different reasons for obtaining capillary blood samples taken

K12 a working understanding of the concerns that individuals may have in relation to capillary blood sampling

K13 a working understanding of the sites which can be used for capillary sampling and what the factors that need to be considered in selecting the best site to use (including the individual’s own preference)

K14 a working understanding of why it is important to clean the sites from which you will obtain samples, and the appropriate ways of doing this

K15 a working understanding of the limits of your role and the circumstances in which you would need to refer to another person

K16 a working understanding of the contra-indications which indicate that capillary sampling should be stopped and advice sought

K17 a working understanding of what is likely to cause discomfort to individuals during and after the collection of capillary blood samples, and how such discomfort can be minimised
Unit BDS2
Obtain and test capillary blood samples (Level 2)

K18 a working understanding of what can cause problems in obtaining capillary blood samples, what can be done to stimulate blood flow and when another site should be used
K19 a factual awareness of the common adverse reactions/events which individuals may have to blood sampling, how to recognise them and action(s) to take if they occur.

Materials and equipment
K20 a working understanding of the equipment and materials are needed for capillary blood sampling and testing
K21 a working understanding of the sorts of equipment and materials which are sensitive to environmental changes and how this affects their storage and use
K22 a working understanding of which equipment and instruments are re-usable and which must be discarded after one use
K23 a factual awareness of the different types of containers/slides which are used for collecting capillary blood samples
K24 a factual awareness of the types of samples which have particular packaging, storage and transfer requirements and what these requirements are
K25 a working understanding of how and when to label samples if required.

Procedures and techniques
K26 a working understanding of the importance of ensuring sites for capillary blood sampling are cleaned effectively, and how and when this should be done
K27 a working understanding of the process and procedure for obtaining capillary blood samples, including the correct sequence of actions
K28 a working understanding of the factors involved in the procedures which could affect the quality of the blood
K29 a working understanding of the importance of collecting capillary blood samples of the right quality, and how to achieve this
K30 a working understanding of the complications and problems may occur during the collection of capillary blood samples, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take
K31 a working understanding of how to perform relevant tests.

Records and documentation
K32 a working understanding of how to record test results, and the importance of clear and accurate documentation
K33 a working understanding of the information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation when sending capillary blood samples to the laboratory
K34 a working understanding of the importance of completing labels and documentation clearly, legibly and accurately, and the possible consequences of confusing (muddling) samples or incorrect labelling
K35 a working understanding of the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff.
Unit BDS2
Obtain and test capillary blood samples (Level 2)

Unit evidence requirements

Award title: Health Level 2
Unit number: BDS2
Unit title: Obtain and test capillary blood samples

Evidence requirements for this unit:
You must provide your assessor with evidence for all the performance criteria and all the knowledge and those parts of the scope that are applicable to your work.

The evidence must be provided in the following ways taking into account any of the special considerations below.

Special considerations:
Simulation is not permitted for this unit.

The nature of this unit means that all of your evidence must come from real work activities.

The evidence must reflect, at all times, the policies and procedures of the workplace, as linked to current legislation and the values and principles for good practice in health.

Required sources of performance and knowledge evidence:
Observation and/or expert witness testimony is the required assessment method to be used to evidence some part of this unit.

If your assessor is unable to observe you s/he will identify an expert witness in your workplace who will provide testimony of your work-based performance. Your assessor or expert witness will observe you in real work activities and this should provide most of the evidence for the performance criteria in this unit. Your assessor will also decide what knowledge and understanding you have demonstrated through your work practice.

Other sources of performance and knowledge evidence:
The following performance criteria may be difficult to evidence by observation and/or expert witness testimony:

BDS2 performance criteria 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17
Unit BDS2
Obtain and test capillary blood samples (Level 2)

Your assessor will identify other sources of performance and knowledge evidence where observation or expert witness testimony has been used but your assessor needs to ensure that any outstanding performance criteria and knowledge requirements are met and that your performance is consistent.

• **Work products:** These are non-confidential records made, or contributed to, by you.

• **Confidential records:** These may be used as evidence but must not be placed in your portfolio. They must remain in their usual location and be referred to in the assessor records in your portfolio eg individuals record cards.

• **Questioning/Professional discussion:** Questions may be oral or written. In each case the question and your answer will need to be recorded. Professional discussion should be in the form of a structured review of your practice with the outcomes captured by means of audiotape or a written summary. These are particularly useful to provide evidence that you know and understand principles which support practice, policies, procedures and legislation, and that you can critically evaluate their application eg Responsibilities under European and national legislation.

• **Original certificates:** Certificates of training, awards and records of attendance must be authentic, current and valid. Your assessor will also want to check the content of such training so that this can be matched to the standards and check that you have retained and can apply learning to practice, eg Health and Safety Certificate, Infection Control Certificate.

• **Case studies, projects, assignments and reflective accounts of your work:** These methods are most appropriately used to cover any outstanding areas in the knowledge requirement of your award. Occasionally, because an event happens rarely or may be difficult to observe, you may be able to use a reflective account to provide some of the performance evidence for this unit.

• **Witness testimony:** Colleagues, allied professionals, service users/patients and carers may be able to provide testimony of your performance. Your assessor will help you to identify the appropriate use of witnesses.