

NCFE

CACHE

Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs) (holistic) Optional Units - Theatre Support

**NCFE CACHE Level 3 Technical Occupational Entry in
Senior Healthcare Support (Diploma)**

QN: 610/3988/3

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Assessment 1

Your assessor will be able to holistically assess criteria from the following two units:

THEA 2 Receive and handle clinical specimens within the sterile field

THEA 6 Assist in receiving, handling and dispatching clinical specimens

Scenario

During a surgical procedure, a frozen sample is taken and given to you to go immediately to pathology. Later, you get another specimen for histology. This will also be sent to pathology towards the end of the case.

Task 1

Create a presentation demonstrating your understanding of how to receive and handle a range of clinical specimens and the reasons for using different containers and transport medias in line with health and safety guidance. Your presentation must:

- identify different types of specimens received and handled within a perioperative environment
- explain the differences between the types of specimens and how these are received, handled and dispatched
- state the requirements for handling and transporting both frozen and non-frozen clinical specimens to ensure their condition is maintained
- identify different types and uses of container and transport media in the perioperative environment.

THEA 2: AC1.1, 1.2, 1.3

THEA 6: AC2.1, 2.2

Task 2

You are required to complete a written explanation.

The histology specimen has been wrongly labelled, but this was determined before the specimen went down to pathology.

Explain the potential consequences of poor practice related to the handling, labelling, transporting and dispatching of clinical specimens and how this would be rectified before it went to pathology.

THEA 2: AC1.4

THEA 6: AC2.3

Task 3

Create an information leaflet on how health and safety measures can be implemented when working with clinical specimens that could be given to work experience students.

You will need to ensure that the information is accessible and engaging for the chosen group, using appropriate terminology for your intended audience.

Your leaflet should include the following:

- explain how the standard precautions for infection control apply when receiving, handling and dispatching specimens
- describe how to avoid compromising the sterile field and explain how to deal with hazards associated with receiving and handling clinical specimens
- outline the actions to take when there is a breakdown in the sterile field and explain the consequences if clinical specimens are contaminated.

THEA 2: AC1.5, 1.6

THEA 6: AC1.1, 1.2, 1.3

Task 4

This task requires a completed observation grid.

Provide a copy of this sheet to your assessor/line manager/qualified nurse/qualified senior support worker or other professional who has observed you within your workplace receiving and handling clinical specimens within the sterile field.

Note to assessor / expert witness: state in detail what you have observed the learner complete from the following competencies.

Include in detail what was observed and avoid a rewrite of the criteria itself.

If any of these have not been observed, it is good practice to state 'not observed.'

Assessment criteria to be observed	Achieved with supporting information	Areas to review
The learner is observed applying standard precautions for infection control (THEA 2: AC2.1, THEA 6: AC3.1)		
The learner is observed implementing health and safety measures relevant to handling clinical specimens (THEA 2: AC2.2, THEA 6: AC3.2)		
The learner is observed obtaining valid consent to collect clinical specimens (THEA 2: AC2.3)		
The learner is observed confirming and using the correct container and transport medium for the type of clinical specimen being collected as directed by the appropriate person		

(THEA 2: AC2.4, THEA 6: AC3.3)		
The learner is observed receiving, handling, labelling, dispatching and recording information on specimens in line with local policies and protocols as directed by the appropriate person (THEA 2: AC2.5, 2.7, 2.8, THEA 6: AC3.4)		
The learner is observed maintaining the sterile field when passing specimens to the appropriate person (THEA 2: AC2.6)		
The learner is observed notifying the appropriate person of any queries relating to clinical specimens that are beyond own competence (THEA 6: AC3.5)		
The learner is observed updating records in line with local policies and protocols (THEA 2: AC2.7, THEA 6: AC3.6)		

Change history record

Version	Description of change	Date of issue
V1.0	First publication	August 2025