Core blood competencies assessment framework

Assessment criteria for preparing to administer blood/blood products to patients and administering a transfusion of blood/blood products

This framework is for assessing staff’s ability to prepare and administer blood/blood products to a patient. Staff should be assessed after they have attended a local training course on this core task.

Further information and training materials can be found at: www.npsa.nhs.uk

This framework was developed by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) to assess the core blood transfusion competencies, BDS19 Prepare to administer blood/blood products to patients and BDS20 Administer a transfusion of blood/blood products.

This workforce competence is linked to the Knowledge and Skills Framework dimensions developed by Skills for Health. The dimensions are Communication, Health and Safety, and Health and Well-being.

How to use this competence assessment framework

The framework should be completed whilst observing a member of staff who is involved in preparing and administering blood and/or blood products. It is available from the local blood transfusion lead in every trust and is part of the NPSA’s Right patient, right blood initiative.

It is important that the assessor informs the patient that the member of staff’s skills are being assessed as part of a three-yearly process.
## Observational assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core competency</th>
<th>Please put a tick or cross to show whether or not the member of staff completed the task</th>
<th>Notes for assessors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 <strong>Did the member of staff carry out the four types of pre-transfusion checks correctly:</strong></td>
<td>Give a tick or cross for each point separately.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) personal?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) equipment?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) patient?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) blood component?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) personal: clean hands, wear personal protective equipment and adhere to infection control guidelines at all times</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) equipment: check that all equipment is clean and available (i.e. prescription chart, observation chart, giving set, disposable bags and a trolley)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) patient: carry out a baseline assessment of the patient; check venous access has been obtained prior to blood being collected from the fridge; read through the prescription; and check that the patient understands they are going to receive a transfusion,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) blood component: check the quality of the blood product, expiry dates, and any special transfusion requirements</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2 Patient identification for the conscious patient

Did the member of staff ask the patient to state their:
- a) full name?
- b) date of birth?

Did the member of staff check:
- c) the details on the wristband or other attached identifier were correct?

### 3 Patient identification for unconscious patients or patients unable to verbally respond:

Did the member of staff check:
- a) the details on the wristband or other attached identifier and at least their:
  - full name?
  - date of birth?
  - hospital number?
- b) the information on the blood or blood product against the patient and wristband details?

### 4 Did the member of staff record the patient’s vital signs?

- a) blood pressure?
- b) temperature?
- c) pulse rate?

### 5 Administering the blood transfusion

Did the member of staff ensure that the blood transfusion was:
- a) completed within four hours of it leaving the fridge, OR
- b) within 30 minutes for platelets?

Did the member of staff
- c) record the patient’s vital signs prior to starting the transfusion?
- d) monitor the patient’s vital signs 15 minutes after starting the transfusion?
- e) dispose of equipment safely?
- f) monitor the patient’s vital signs on completion of the blood transfusion?
6  **Documentation**

Did the member of staff record the following information in the patient’s notes:

- a) date?
- b) start time?
- c) stop time of the transfusion?

Did the member of staff:

- d) complete the traceability documentation in accordance with national law?

**All of the above must be achieved to pass the assessment**

**Knowledge assessment**

Does the member of staff know and understand the importance of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Using open-ended questions for patient identification?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The timescales for administering blood and/or blood product safely after it had been collected from the fridge?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct procedure if unconscious patient or unable to give verbal identification?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The risks associated with checking the blood compatibility form against the blood product instead of the information on the wristband?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring the patient’s vital signs throughout the transfusion process?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>