D-CM01: Pulse oximetry recordings

Scope and objectives of clinical task

This CTI will enable the Allied Health Assistant (AHA) to:

- correctly measure and document a client’s oxygen saturation level (SpO2) using finger pulse oximetry
- identify indications for initiating pulse oximetry
Requisite training, knowledge, skills and experience

Training

• Completion of CTI D-WTS01 When to stop
• Mandatory training requirements relevant to Queensland Health / HHS clinical roles are assumed knowledge for this CTI.
• Achievement of the following competencies (which relate to HLT - Health Training Package qualifications HLT43015 Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance) would be beneficial:
  – Deliver and monitor a client-specific physiotherapy program
Note: if above competencies have not been achieved by the AHA as part of the formal Certificate training program, the workplace may implement workplace-based training that encompasses these competencies and provides equivalency of knowledge and skills.
• Completion of the Clinical Skills Development Service Oxygen Therapy eLearning course is desirable.

Clinical knowledge

The following content knowledge is required by an AHA delivering this task:
• Knowledge of basic anatomy and physiology to the extent required to undertake this task, including terminology such as oxygen saturation, and positioning of the pulse oximetry probe.
• Knowledge of the indications for initiating pulse oximetry.
The knowledge requirements will be met by the following activities:
• Completing the training programs (listed above)
• Reviewing the Learning Resource
• Receiving instruction from an allied health professional in the training phase.

Skills or experience

The following skills or experience are required by an AHA delivering this task:
• Nil

The following skills or experience are desirable for an AHA delivering this task:
• Nil
Safety and quality

Client
- The AHA will apply CTI D-WTS01 When to stop at all times.
- This CTI should be administered in conjunction with CTI D-WTS01 When to stop which includes normal values for a range of standard clinical observations and actions to implement if observations fall outside these ranges.

Equipment, aids and appliances
- Ensure the pulse oximeter is clean and in safe working order.

Environment
- Ensure that an appropriate level of client privacy is maintained during the task.

Performance of Clinical Task

1. Delegation instructions
- Receive delegated task from the allied health professional.
- The delegating allied health professional should clearly identify parameters for delivering the clinical task to the specific client, including any variance from the usual task procedure and expected outcomes (e.g. if the client’s acceptable oxygen saturation level varies from normal parameters). The delegating practitioner should provide guidance regarding the timing of the measurement in the broader intervention if relevant e.g. at the commencement, at 15 minute intervals, at conclusion.
- The AHA may implement this task in variance to the timing or frequency in the delegation instruction, or initiate the task if indicated by circumstances outlined in CTI D-WTS01 When to stop. The following may indicate oxygen saturation level monitoring is required:
  - Instructed by delegating allied health professional
  - One or more of the following is reported by the client or is documented in the client’s chart:
    - light headedness, when standing from a sitting or lying position
    - dizziness e.g. swaying, balance problems, unable to focus eyes on AHA
    - weakness
    - blurred vision
    - fatigue
    - fainting
    - feeling hot or sweaty or clammy
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- nausea or vomiting
- recent surgery or trauma
- low haemoglobin level (<90 g/L)

2. Preparation
- Check the pulse oximeter is fully charged.
- Turn power on to allow time for the machine to self-test or initialise.

3. Introduce task and seek consent
- The AHA introduces him/herself to client.
- The AHA checks three forms of client identification: full name, date of birth plus one of the following; hospital UR number, Medicare number, or address.
- The AHA describes the task to the client. For example: “I would like to check the oxygen saturation level in your blood using this pulse oximeter. Is that ok?” and "I am going to place this probe on your finger to check the oxygen saturation level in your blood”.
- The AHA seeks informed consent according to the Queensland Health Guide to Informed Decision Making in Healthcare.

4. Positioning
The client’s position during the task should be:
- comfortable on the bed or chair
The AHA’s position during the task should be:
- standing or sitting at the client’s side so that the client’s oxygen saturation level can be effectively measured.

5. Task procedure
- Explain the task to the client.
- Check the client has understood the task and provide the opportunity to ask questions.
- The task comprises the following steps:
  1. Place the probe on the client’s finger (thumbs should not be used), and ensure the finger is kept still. The fingernail should be free of nail varnish.
  2. Await a response from the machine. A good reading is indicated by a strong flow (up and down) of the LED lights next to the reading.
  3. Note current oxygenation therapy in situ (how many L/min and the device used to deliver oxygen) that may be assisting the client.
4. Record the client’s oxygen saturation level clearly and accurately as per local health service guidelines.
5. Provide feedback to the client on their oxygen saturation level at the completion of the task.
6. Remove the probe and clean in line with infection control protocols.

• At the conclusion of the task:
  – Take appropriate actions including CTI D-WTS01 When to stop if indicated by the client’s oxygen saturation level.

6. Document

• Document the oxygen saturation level in the clinical record, consistent with relevant documentation standards and local procedures.

7. Report to delegating health professional

• Provide comprehensive feedback to the health professional who delegated the task.

References and supporting documents

## Assessment: Performance Criteria Checklist
### D-CM01: Pulse oximetry recordings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance Criteria</th>
<th>Knowledge acquired</th>
<th>Supervised task practice</th>
<th>Competency assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demonstrates knowledge of fundamental concepts required to undertake the task.</td>
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<td>Obtains all required information from delegating health professional, and seeks clarification if required.</td>
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<td>Completes preparation for task including compliance with infection control and obtaining appropriate equipment.</td>
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<td>Introduces self to client and checks client identification.</td>
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<td>Describes purpose of delegated task and seeks informed consent.</td>
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<td>Positions self and client appropriately to complete task and ensure safety.</td>
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<td>Delivers task effectively and safely as per delegated instructions and CTI procedure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Clearly explains task, checking client’s understanding.</td>
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<td>b) Places probe on finger, ensuring finger is kept still.</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Awaits response from machine.</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Notes current oxygenation therapy in situ.</td>
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<td>e) Records reading clearly and accurately as per local health service guidelines.</td>
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<td>f) Removes probe and ensures infection control protocol is completed.</td>
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<td>g) Provides feedback to client on their oxygen saturation level at completion of task.</td>
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<td>h) Takes appropriate actions if indicated by the oxygen saturation level.</td>
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<td>Documents the outcomes of the task in the clinical record, consistent with relevant documentation standards and local procedures.</td>
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<td>Provides accurate and comprehensive feedback to the delegating health professional.</td>
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<td>Comments:</td>
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<th>Record of assessment of competence</th>
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Pulse oximetry recordings: Learning Resource

Relevant training program
Queensland Health. *Deliver and monitor a client-specific physiotherapy program.*

Oxygen Therapy eLearning course
Clinical Skills Development Service: Oxygen Therapy eLearning course
https://www.sdc.qld.edu.au/courses/122

How to use a pulse oximeter

Images of oxygen therapy equipment