

## Electrocardiogram clinical competency

Name:	Role:
Base:	Date initial training completed:

**Competency Statement:**

The participant demonstrates clinical knowledge and skill to perform and electrocardiogram without assistance and/or direct supervision (level 3 - see level descriptors). Assessment in practice must be by a Registered Health care Professional who can demonstrate competence at level 4 or above.

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Level achieved	Date	Assessor/self assessed
<b>The Participant will be able to:</b>				
<b>1. Demonstrate the principles and practice of performing an electrocardiogram (ECG)</b>				
a) Define an ECG	questioning			
b) State 3 clinical reasons for recording and ECG	questioning			
c) Demonstrate the appropriate safety checks that must be made before using the ECG machine	questioning			
d) Explain the factors that need to be addressed to secure consent before the ECG is performed	questioning			
e) Describe the patient safety checks to be made prior to recording an ECG	questioning			
f) Describe 3 situations when an ECG may prove to be difficult to record	questioning			
g) Demonstrate the correct position of the patient when recording an ECG	questioning			
h) Demonstrate appropriate skin preparation prior to recording an ECG	questioning			
i) Demonstrate the correct lead positions	questioning			
j) Trouble shooting questions.  1) What action would you take to minimise interference on the ECG?  2) What would you do if only 1 lead on the ECG recording showed a straight line?  3) What would you do if all leads come up as straight lines on the ECG despite being in the correct position?	questioning			

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Level achieved	Date	Assessor/self assessed
<b>2. Demonstrate the recording of an ECG in practice</b>				
a) Ensure that all equipment is safe and in full working order	Observation			
b) Use equipment in the correct manner in line with local policy	Observation			
c) Access the correct records / clinic list of patients	Observation			
d) Greet the patient and confirm identity	Observation			
e) Explain the procedure and demonstrate a manner which respects his / her beliefs, and which ensures privacy, dignity and confidentiality is preserved at all times	Observation			
f) Obtain consent from the patient. Describe what action you would take if consent could not be obtained	Observation			
g) Identify any special needs which may affect performance of the test or influence results	Observation			
h) Obtain information from the patient regarding symptoms or signs of pathology which may occur during the procedure	Observation			
i) Give clear instructions to the patient during the procedure in a sensitive and reassuring manner. Encourage the patient to relax and remain immobile during the procedure	Observation			
j) Accurately identify the electrode sites and correctly position the electrodes, taking into account any identified special needs.	Observation			
k) Test and run monitoring device and check quality of output	Observation			
l) React promptly and appropriately to any adverse clinical changes in the patient's status.	Observation			
m) Confirm completion of procedure with patient and remove electrodes / ECG tabs	Observation			
n) Correctly label documents and recording devices with patient details, clinical details, date of procedure and the person performing the procedure	Observation			

