

Carer Competencies Staffordshire: Blood Pressure Monitoring Protocol

This protocol provides advice and guidance for care managers and staff involved in taking blood pressure measurements in the care sector.

The important safeguarding message is that this is that the following protocol alongside training is to facilitate safe, accurate biometric readings that are carried out at the request of a **clinician** and passed onto that **clinician** in a timely way to ensure that clinical decisions can be made that will benefit the resident/service user.

Target individuals

Care managers and their staff who may have been delegated the task of blood pressure monitoring.

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Introduction to Blood Pressure Monitoring

Blood pressure monitoring is a simple, non-invasive method of measuring a person's blood pressure.

A blood pressure monitor simply measures the pressures in the heart at both the squeeze and relax motion giving the Clinician vital information when deciding on clinical management.

Purpose

Defining boundaries and permitted actions when completing the task; so that Blood Pressure monitoring should only be carried out by staff who are trained and assessed as competent by appropriately trained healthcare professionals (accountable for delegation of the task).



Scope

This document applies to all non-clinical social care staff involved in a person's care who are carrying out blood pressure monitoring on behalf of clinical professionals.

Responsibilities

Care assistants/service providers must:

- Be responsible for their actions
- Work within the scope of their practice and job description
- Update their knowledge and skills with refresher training annually
- Receive approved training prior to carrying out blood pressure monitoring, demonstrate competence and attend annual reassessment of competence by an appropriately trained health professional

The appropriately trained healthcare professional delegating this task must be competent in training and assessment, accountable for all aspects of the blood pressure monitoring and confident that care staff to whom the task is delegated are competent to carry out a safe, accurate blood pressure measurement.

Rationale

To ensure that all care staff/service providers using blood pressure monitoring equipment can obtain a safe, accurate blood pressure reading.

Maintenance and preparation of blood pressure monitors

Maintenance: blood pressure monitors may be provided by an external source or purchased by the Care team. It will be the responsibility of the home manager to have a system in place to monitor and maintain quality assurance for validated reliable pulse oximeters.

It is advisable to have access to different cuff sizes for your use eg medium and large to cater for different arm sizes.

Have spare batteries in stock in case of need.

Cleaning: the pulse oximeter must be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe between each use.

Guidance

All care staff/service providers undertaking should only use reliable equipment supplied by the health care service/organisation requesting the task.

All care staff are responsible for following quality control guidelines as instructed when attending training sessions given by an appropriate healthcare professional.

Training

All care staff/service providers employed who *may* be asked to undertake blood pressure monitoring must complete the approved training and be assessed as competent by a registered healthcare practitioner or a competent member of the care staff team that has undergone training.

It is the responsibility of the Care staff manager to ensure accurate training records are maintained and annual competencies sessions are facilitated by appropriately trained healthcare professionals.

It is the responsibility of the care staff/service providers to work within their scope of practice and to seek further training/support/guidance if they do not feel competent to perform this clinical delegated task.

It is the responsibility of the appropriately trained healthcare professional arranged by the Care staff manager to ensure that they have trained and assessed care staff required to undertake this task as competent and offer on-going support as required to promote safe practice.

Useful webinar

<https://www.digihealthwell.co.uk/ht-webinar/>