

EDUCATION AND COMPETENCE

For

Skin Prick Testing

2020

ASSESSMENT OF COMPETENCE FOR NURSES IN THE CARE & MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS & CHILDREN, UNDERGOING SKIN PRICK TESTING

Definition

Skin Prick Testing (SPT) is a validated test used to support the diagnosis of Type 1 allergy. A diagnosis of allergy cannot be made using the results of SPT in isolation. It's interpretation requires a detailed allergy history.

A nurse performing Skin Prick Testing must:

- Hold valid registration with N.M.B.I.
- Have experience in caring for children with allergies.
- Hold up-to-date P.I.L.S.
- Be competent in performing Skin Prick Testing

Learning Outcomes

Following completion of the competencies the nurse will demonstrate knowledge and competence of the:

- Care and management of a child undergoing Skin Prick Testing

Competence Assessment Strategy

To demonstrate practical competence and a sound knowledge base the nurse is required to complete this workbook and competency assessment pack. There are 6 components which will require that on at least three occasions the nurse will undergo assessment of competence for each component under the supervision of the assessor. The assessment grading system is outlined below.

If the candidate is unsuccessful on 1st assessment of competence, two further attempts at reassessment may be undertaken. An action plan will be developed and recorded by the assessor.

Action Plan The action plan must be documented and should detail the following:

- ❑ The area(s) of practice which require development as agreed by the nurse and the assessor
- ❑ Specific details of how these area(s) of practice will be addressed in the clinical area
- ❑ An agreed period of time for further supervised practice

COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT

Guide for Assessors

An assessor must be a Doctor or Nurse who is deemed competent in the management of infants and children before, during, and after a Skin Prick Testing. When undertaking supervision of nurses and for the final assessment of competence, it is recommended that the learning outcomes and domains of competence as outlined in the workbook are used as a guide.



ASSESSMENT GRADING SYSTEM		GRADE
Learning experience not available.		0
Limited knowledge, observed demonstration of the skill but doubt ability to perform skill safely without guidance/direction.		1
Could perform a Skin Prick Test safely under supervision of the Allergy C.N.S. and Allergy Consultant.		2
Can utilise knowledge and perform a challenge safely, independently, under the supervision of assessor.		3
Confident and competent of the knowledge required and ability to perform a challenge safely under the superintendence of the Allergy Consultant on site.		4

Domains of Competence	
Domain 1	Competencies in relation to Professional / Ethical Practice
Domain 2	Competencies in relation to the Holistic approaches to Care and the Integration of Knowledge
Domain 3	Competencies in relation to Interpersonal Relationships
Domain 4	Competencies in relation to the Organisation and Management of Care
Domain 5	Competencies in relation to Personal and Professional Development

Domain	Complete on at least 3 occasions	Signature			Assessor		
1. Management of a child/infant having Skin Prick Testing.							
Demonstrate knowledge of the role of skin prick testing in allergy diagnosis		<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>
1, 2	Demonstrate understanding of what the SPT measures in the skin.						
1,2	Knowledge & understanding of how to measure an SPT signal correctly.						
1,2	Knowledge and understanding of the role of positive and negative controls in the context of SPT.						
1, 2, 4	Understand the factors which may affect the outcome of the skin prick test.						
1,2,	Understanding of risks involved in performing Skin Prick Testing.						
1,2,4	Explain how you would prepare for and minimise these risks						
Preparing for a Skin Prick Testing							
1,2,3,4	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of : How SPT are requested during the allergy clinic; Where & how allergens are stored pre, during and post the procedure. When and why non-extract allergens are used for SPT and the special measures that are required for same; Ordering emergency medication;						



	Demonstrate ability to prepare lancets correctly and have all necessary equipment ready prior to SPT.						
1,2,4	Demonstrate the preparation of the clinical area: Working oxygen supply & essential equipment; Suction apparatus & essential equipment; Blood pressure, pulse and oxygen saturations monitoring; Emergency medications.						
		<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>
1,2,3	Explanation of the procedure to the child and parent ensuring they have a good understanding of the procedure and the role each person has.						
3,4	Allow time for, and encourage questions if required.						
1,2,4	Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the questions you need to ask prior to skin testing- -has the patient taken any anti-histamine medicine in the last 5 days? -has the child taken any prescribed or over the counter medicines in the last 5 days? -has the child got symptoms of an acute asthma exacerbation? -has the child had a previous Vasa-vagal response to a SPT? Has the child got an extreme fear of needles that may require play based intervention prior to testing?						
1,2	Demonstrate ability to evaluate any potential risk, e.g. behavioural issues/family dynamic/ responses to essential questions as above.						
1, 2,3, 4	Demonstrate ability to assess skin integrity and understanding of how this may effect skin prick testing.						
Care of a child /infant during Skin Prick Testing							
1,2, 3	Ensure the required elements for accurate and safe SPT are available						
1, 2, 3	Understand and can describe the principles of hand hygiene						
1, 2, 3	Understand and can describe the principles of Universal precautions						
1,2,3,5	Demonstrates ability to perform carry out a SPT as per hospital SOP.						
1,2,4	Demonstrate how to identify any concerns you have regarding the patient and the steps to ensure the clinical team are informed.						



1,2,4	Demonstrate ability to maintain a safe environment during the procedure, at all times, for the patient and their family.						
1,2,4	Demonstrate ability and knowledge to identify symptoms of possible adverse response to SPT.						
1,2,4,	Demonstrate ability & knowledge of correct management of an adverse response to a SPT.						
1,2,4	Demonstrate ability to timely and accurately record results of SPT onto the SPT documentation.						
1,2,3,4	Demonstrate ability to liaise with the medical team regarding any change in the child's condition						
1,2,4	Demonstrate understanding of medications that may be used to treat an allergic reaction						
1,2,3	Demonstrate ability to provide information and support to the child/family throughout the procedure.						
Care of a child /infant following Skin Prick Testing							
1,2,3,5	Ensure parents/child have a full understanding of the time it takes to read a test result, and how to manage the child while waiting to maintain validity of the test.						
		<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>	<i>date</i>
1,2,3,5	Ensure parents understand that staying in the allergy clinic for a full hour minimum post a skin is required and essential; Inform clinical team of queries from parents.						
1,2,4	Understand and can describe the principles of sharps disposal.						
1,2,4	Understand and can describe the principles of waste disposal.						
1,2,4	Demonstrate ability to return clinical space to standard use post SPT, and store SPT equipment correctly.						
1,2,5	Demonstrate knowledge of complications that can arise following SPT and how to treat appropriately.						
1,2,4,5	Demonstrate knowledge and skill in troubleshooting complications that can arise with individual patients						
1,4	Demonstrate correct use of relevant documentation						
1,4	knowledge of procedure to arrange clinic follow-up or repeat SPT.						

5	Independently performed SPT from start to finish with all age groups 0-1, 2-5, 7-11, 12+ at least 5 times						
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Children's Health Ireland
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ACTION PLAN

Action Plan No. 1 (if unsuccessful at 1st Assessment)

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Re-assessment of Competence (Please circle as appropriate)

Demonstrates Competence: Yes No

Signature of Assessor: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Candidate: _____ **Date:** _____

If candidate is **unsuccessful** refer to **Action Plan No. 2**

Action Plan No. 2 (if unsuccessful at 2nd Assessment)

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Re-assessment of Competence (Please circle as appropriate)

Demonstrates Competence Yes No

Signature of Assessor: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Candidate: _____ **Date:** _____



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Crumlin, Dublin 12

Completion of Competence Assessment in the care and management of infants and children undergoing a Skin Prick
Test.

Summary Sheet

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

NMBI Number: _____ Clinical Area/Unit: _____

The nurses' practice has been supervised on three occasions and he/she has completed the competence assessment in the following	Date	Signature of Assessor

Outcome of Assessment: (Please tick ✓ as appropriate)

Demonstrates Competence: Yes No

Signature of Assessor: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Candidate: _____ Date: _____

If candidate is **unsuccessful** refer to **Action Plan**. Appendix 1

It is advisable to keep a copy of summary sheet for one's own personal records/portfolio.

Notes
