

**Assessment of Competence for Registered Healthcare Practitioners
Clinical Skill: Vaginal Speculum Examination**

Name:	Ward/Dept:
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AIM:	To safely demonstrate an understanding and undertaking of a vaginal speculum examination.
OBJECTIVES:	The healthcare practitioner will be able to: - Demonstrate understanding of the knowledge and skills necessary for performing a female genital examination. - Demonstrate competence in examining the female genital tract with a speculum.
PREREQUISITES:	Registered practitioner working within women's and children's.
TRAINING:	Training session and observational practice within the clinical environment with appropriate supervisor
ASSESSMENT:	Assessed by competent assessor using performance criteria below
RISK ASSESSMENT:	HIGH (invasive procedure, risk of harm due to user error)
UPDATE:	Competence to be reviewed annually and a record maintained within ward / department and within individuals personal file.

UNDERPINNING KNOWLEDGE			
It is expected that the healthcare practitioner will: - Be able to take and document a full gynaecological history. - Understand the indication for examination. - Understand and manage special situations regarding vulnerable groups including young women. - Have appropriate theoretical knowledge in anatomy, physiology and pathology. - Adequately demonstrate how to prepare the environment and equipment. - Demonstrate competence in interpreting findings of the examination, knowing when to seek senior guidance and being able to acknowledge whether findings are normal or abnormal. - Be able to make onward referral to the appropriate practitioner if necessary - Be able to document findings of the examination accurately and explain the findings clearly to the patient I certify that the above named healthcare practitioner has successfully completed the theoretical assessment which covers the above.			
Signed:		Date:	
Print Name:		Position:	

CLINICAL SKILL			
PERFORMANCE CRITERIA - The practitioner will:			Performed Safely (✓)
1.	Training/Practice session on manikin (GOPD)		
2.	Give a clear and concise explanation to the patient on the examination and gain consent (observation required). <i>"Adequately demonstrates how to prepare the woman physically and psychologically giving appropriate information and gaining consent"</i> (RCN, 2020).		
3.	Inspect external genitalia. If any abnormalities, document these and explain to the patient. Seek senior support or onward referral if necessary.		
4.	Ensures correct size and type of speculum is selected.		
5.	Ensures the speculum is lubricated with water-based lubricant.		
6.	Ensures the blades of the speculum are closed for insertion. Using the non-dominant hand to part the labia, the speculum is inserted into the introitus at a 90 degree angle with a slight downward motion. After inserting into the vagina, the speculum is then rotated and placed flush with perineum.		
7.	Opens speculum and is able to get clear view of cervix/vault. If unable to view able to reposition speculum or patient confidently.		
8.	Fix or hold the speculum in correct position.		
9.	Evidence of inspection of vaginal walls (note colour, odour, presence of discharge or any abnormalities).		
10.	Unscrews speculum and removes carefully, inspecting the vaginal walls on exit for any abnormalities.		
11.	Ensures that the patient is reassured and made comfortable throughout the examination		
12.	Explains the findings to the patient in a clear manner and documents findings accordingly.		
I confirm that the above named healthcare practitioner has completed the assessment competently.			
Signed:			Date:
Print Name:			Position:

ASSESSOR COMMENTS

CANDIDATE COMMENTS

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DECLARATION

I confirm that I have had theoretical and practical instruction on how to safely and competently an understanding and undertaking of a vaginal speculum examination, and agree to comply with the policy and procedures of the Trust. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to maintain and update my knowledge and skills relating to this competency.

Signed:

Date:

SPONSOR/PEER REVIEW

To ensure the content is accurate, current and evidenced based, competencies are required to be peer reviewed by subject matter experts within the specialty. It is your responsibility, as the author, to ensure this is undertaken and the peer review section is signed by the appropriate person.

Author's Name:	Jessica Cook	Position:	Gynaecology Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist
Peer Review Name:	Becky Hutchinson	Position:	Matron of Gynaecology and Fertility
Signed:		Date:	

REFERENCES

Royal College of Nursing (2020) Genital Examination in Women: A resource for skills development and assessment. Clinical Professional Resource, London: RCN. Available at <https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/rcn-genital-examination-in-women-pub007961> (Accessed 05/02/2021).

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