VOLUME 3

CLINICAL NURSING SKILLS

A Concept-Based Approach to Learning

Barbara Callahan, Editor

Third Edition





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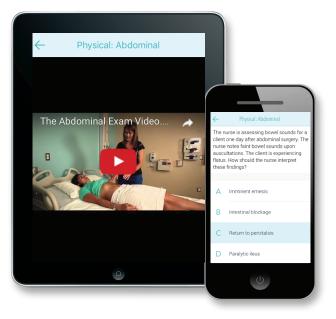
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Preface

Nursing: A Concept-Based Approach to Learning is the number one choice for nursing schools employing a concept-based curriculum. The *only* true concept-based learning solution developed from the ground up, this three-volume learning suite equips you to deliver an effective concept-based program and to develop practice-ready nurses. Available as a digital or a print experience, this solution meets the needs of today's nursing student.

What Makes Pearson's Solution Different?

Nurses perform skills that apply knowledge, psychomotor dexterity, and critical thinking necessary for effective clinical practice. Pearson's *Nursing: A Concept-Based Approach to Learning*, Third Edition, is the *only* resource solution to dedicate a volume exclusively to nursing skills. Showcasing 277 skills with nearly 250 minor skills embedded in them, *Clinical Nursing Skills: A Concept-Based Approach to Learning*, the third volume in this suite, builds proficiency in the knowhow and the rationales to execute psychomotor skills, delegate appropriately, provide patient teaching, and support individualized nursing care.

The previous edition of *Clinical Nursing Skills: A Concept-Based Approach to Learning* met the learning needs of tens of thousands of students and instructors in concept-based nursing programs. The Third Edition builds on that foundation and Pearson's commitment to excellence. We solicited and examined feedback on every skill and every feature that you—our customer—recommended in order to produce the best learning resource. This uniquely integrated solution provides students with a consistent design of content and assessment that specifically supports a concept-based curriculum.

Our goal for the Third Edition is to help students learn the essential knowledge they will need for patient care. The cover showcases a Möbius strip, which represents the relationships among the concepts and how they are all interconnected. By understanding important connections of concepts, students are able to relate topics to broader contexts.

Why Teach Concept-Based Learning?

University and college nursing programs across the United States and Canada evaluated how their programs can meet the needs of today's nursing students effectively. Nursing students felt overwhelmed by the amount of knowledge and skills they required to become proficient practitioners. As a result, many programs moved or are moving to the model of concept-based learning. A concept-based curriculum's streamlined approach helps nursing students to integrate concepts, apply information, and use clinical reasoning while minimizing content overload. Further, the model facilitates the transition from sageon-the-stage teaching to engaging students in the learning process by doing meaningful, collaborative activities in lecture and the lab. Other benefits of conceptual learning in nursing programs –

- Concentrates on problems
- Fosters systematic observations
- Develops an understanding of relationships
- Focuses on nursing actions and interdisciplinary efforts
- Challenges students to think like a nurse

New to This Edition

- Learning Outcomes define measurable goals at the start of each chapter and align with end-of-chapter NCLEXstyle questions and the test bank.
- **Concept of** ... explains the chapter's theory that underpins the skill.
- Review Questions feature NCLEX-style questions that assess chapter-opening learning outcomes, answers, and rationales and serve not only as a self-review, but also as preparation for the licensing exam.
- Enhanced eText, available via MyLab Nursing Concepts, offers a rich and engaging learning experience with interactive activities and exercises. Note: Access requires an adoption of MyLab Nursing Concepts.
- Instructor's Resource Manual facilitates active learning in the classroom, lab, and clinical environment with class-tested interactive hands-on and cognitive exercises to help students apply concepts and exemplars.
- Test Bank offers test items written in NCLEX-like language.
- Image Library provides all the text's illustrations and photos to enhance your PowerPoint presentations and other materials.
- New and Restructured Skills 277 major skills with nearly 250 additional assessment, teaching, or care skills embedded in them. For example, Skill 2.5 Hair: Caring for includes the embedded skills of Assessing and Treating Head Lice and Nits Infestation.

More Changes for this Edition

- Integrates developmental ages across the lifespan throughout skills instead of having separate areas for different ages.
- Expands newborn, infant, and child procedural steps in the skills.
- Offers more photos and figures to improve learning through visual examples.

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- Identifies common advanced skills students may have opportunities to observe or assist with following safety note perimeters – ex. "Paracentesis: Assisting" provides information about this procedure.
- Broadens teaching context to include the patient in the home environment after discharge.

New Skills

The following skills are new to the third edition:

- Colostomy: Irrigating, Skill 4.19
- Fall Prevention: Assessing and Managing, Skill 15.2
- Suicide: Caring for Suicidal Patient, Skill 15.4

Revised and Restructured Skills

The presentation of the following skills was re-envisioned for the third edition:

- Blood Transfusion: Administering, Skill 12.2
- Body Mass Index (BMI): Assessing, Skill 10.1
- Capillary Blood Specimen for Glucose: Measuring, Skill 8.4
- Cardiac Compressions, External: Performing, Skill 11.22
- Closed Wound Drains: Maintaining, Skill 16.3
- Ear Medication: Administering, Skill 2.17
- Feeding, Continuous, Nasointestinal/Jejunostomy with a Small-Bore Tube: Administering, Skill 10.6
- Implanted Vascular Access Devices: Managing, Skill 5.5
- Infusion Flow Rate Using Controller or IV Pump, Skill 5.7
- Intracranial Pressure: Monitoring and Caring for, Skill 7.2
- Nasogastric Tube: Inserting, Skill 10.11
- Newborn: Assessing, Skill 14.23
- Oxygen Delivery Systems: Using, Skill 11.8
- Range-of-Motion Exercises: Assisting, Skill 9.2
- Suctioning, Oropharyngeal and Nasopharyngeal: Newborn, Infant, Child, Adult, Skill 11.14
- Venipuncture: Initiating, Skill 5.15

Organization and Structure of *Clinical Nursing Skills*, Third Edition

Clinical Nursing Skills' chapters, listed alphabetically, support concepts in volumes 1 and 2. Within each chapter, associated skills appear in subgroups. Subgroups reflect the sequence of thinking, such as assessment skills appearing before intervention skills in the chapters. As an example, the path for finding the skill about using a nasal cannula for supplemental oxygen therapy is:

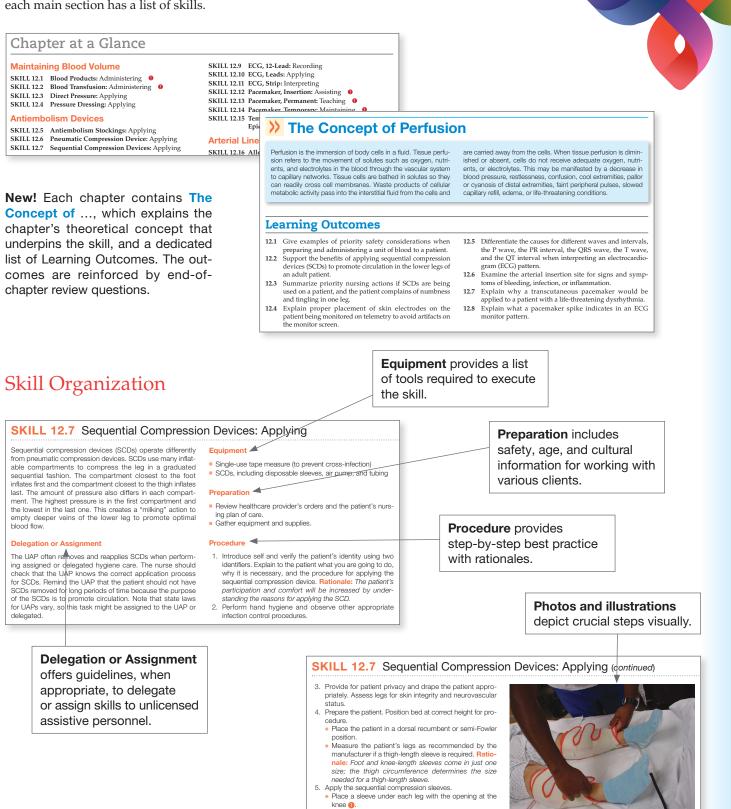
- Concept—Oxygenation, Chapter 11
- Subgroup—Supplemental Oxygen Therapy
- Skill—Oxygen Delivery Systems: Using, Skill 11.8
- VARIATIONS—Nasal Cannula/Simple Face Mask/ Partial Rebreather Mask, etc.

Skill Organization

- Delegation or Assignment offers guidelines when it is appropriate to delegate or assign skills to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP).
- *Equipment* lists the apparatus required to perform the skill.
- Preparation includes safety, age, and cultural information for working with various patients.
- **Procedure** provides step-by-step best practice with rationales.
- **Photos and illustrations** depict critical steps visually.
- **Documentation** demonstrates what data to capture post-execution.
- *Variation Skills* present alternative methods for performing select skills.
- **Embedded Skills** (as appropriate) provide useful skills to enhance learning (such as USING A DOPPLER ULTRASOUND DEVICE in Skill 1.6, Pulse: Apical and Peripheral, Obtaining).

Chapter Organization

For the Third Edition, as shown in the Chapter at a Glance listed at the beginning of each chapter, each main section has a list of skills.



knee ().
Wrap the sleeve securely around the leg, securing the Velcro tabs. Allow two fingers to fit between the leg and sleeve (). Rationale: This amount of space ensures that the sleeve does not impair circulation when inflated. Ensure that there is no overlapping or increases in the SCD. Rationale: This prevents skin breakdown.

2 Slip two fingers under wrap to ensure that it is not too tight

Structures and Features

The Concepts are set up consistently throughout the program. This allows students to anticipate the learning they will experience. Special features recur in each chapter as well, which students can use for learning and review. The basic structure of each chapter is shown below with visuals and annotations describing the content.

Concepts Related to ...

Enhanced for the Third Edition, the Concepts Related to feature links to more concepts, relationships, and nursing implications.

Concepts R Perfusion	elated to	
CONCEPT	RELATIONSHIP TO PERFUSION	NURSING IMPLICATIONS
Cognition	Thought processing or mental status is affected if blood volume is decreased.	 Monitor oxygen saturation, vital signs, and orientation status Rule out physical reasons cognition may change
Comfort	Tissues not adequately oxygenated manifest pain.	 Monitor pain and for signs of local and systemic hypoxia Implement oxygen therapy as ordered Monitor oxygen saturations and vital signs
Fluids and Electrolytes	Excess extracellular fluid volume causes lung congestion and impaired gas exchange.	 Monitor fluid intake and output, vital signs, and oxygen saturation Implement oxygen therapy as ordered Administer medications as ordered
Intracranial Regulation	Blood flow volume to brain can change intracranial pressure (ICP).	 Monitor vital signs, pupils, sensorium, and assess for motor or sensory neuro deficits
Tissue Integrity	Wound healing delayed without adequate perfusion to tissue.	 Oxygen is needed for cell metabolism; hyperbaric oxygen therapy can be effective

Safety Note! and Icon • ... Distinguishes skills that nursing students may observe or assist with only with faculty permission and while under direct supervision of faculty or another RN.

Safety Note! During scheduled clinical time, nursing students may have a learning opportunity to observe or assist with this skill only with faculty permission and with direct supervision from faculty or another RN.

Patient Teaching ... Features teaching plans for patients and tips to assist patients in self-care.

Patient Teaching

Wearing Antiembolism Stockings at Home

- Ensure the patient or caregiver knows how to apply antiembolism stockings.
- Reinforce the importance and the rationales for no wrinkles and no rolling down of the stockings.
- Reinforce the importance of removing the stockings daily and inspecting the skin on the legs.
- Include instructions about:
 - Laundering the stockings (air dry because putting them in a dryer can affect their elasticity.)
 - Needing two pairs of stockings to allow one pair to be worn while the other is being laundered.
 - Replacing the stockings when they lose their elasticity.
- Reinforce knowledge about slipperiness of stockings if worn without slippers or shoes.
 - If the patient is ambulatory, emphasize the need for footwear to prevent falling.

Safety Considerations ... Identifies crucial safety information.

Safety Considerations

In addition to the usual blood components such as platelets and cryoprecipitate, modified blood products are becoming more popular. Washed, irradiated, or leukocyte-removed blood is being used for patients at risk because of multiple transfusions or a weakened immune system. Testing for cytomegalovirus and matching RBC or human leukocyte antigens is also done to ensure safe transfusions.

When infusing a blood product that has undergone leukocyte reduction, remember that it must be filtered again through a standard blood administration set in order to trap cellular debris that may have accumulated since the original filtration.

Lifespan Considerations ... Presents agerelated content to alert learners to differences in caring for

patients.

Lifespan Considerations OLDER ADULTS

- Because the elastic is quite strong in antiembolism stockings, older adults may need assistance putting on the stockings. Patients with arthritis may need to have another person put the stockings on for them.
- Many older adults have circulation problems and wear antiembolism stockings. It is important to check for wrinkles in the stockings and to see if the stocking has rolled down or twisted. If so, correct it immediately. Rationale: The stockings must be evenly distributed over the limb to promote-rather than hindercirculation.
- Stockings should be removed at least once a day (check facility policy) so that a thorough assessment can be made of the legs and feet. Rationale: Redness and skin breakdown on the heels can occur quickly and go undetected if not thoroughly assessed on a regular basis.
- Provide information about the importance of wearing the elastic stockings, how to wear them correctly, and how to take care of them.

Caution! ... Highlights key details for high-risk situations when performing the skill.

CAUTION! Dextrose solution (which causes lysis of RBCs), Ringer's solution, medications and other additives, and hyperalimentation solutions are incompatible with blood or blood components.



EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

Recommend Bed Rest for DVT?

Prolonged immobilization has been associated with DVT in critically ill patients. However, the value and safety of mobilizing patients with acute DVT has been a concern, largely because of the potential for venous thromboembolism (dislodging of the clot into the bloodstream) and life-threatening pulmonary embolism (PE).

A number of studies have shown that patients with acute DVT who use compression stockings and begin ambulating early after initiation of anticoagulant therapy experience several benefits from this approach. Benefits include reduced pain level, more rapid reduction in edema, increased strength maintenance, and improved flexibility. Early ambulation in these patients, with careful monitoring for any evidence of PE, resulted in no increase in incidence of PE. Conversely, bed rest and immobilization did not result in any reduction in incidence of PE. Therefore, the current recommendation of the American College of Chest Physicians is ambulation with compression as tolerated, after starting anticoagulation, in patients with acute DVT.

Source: Data from Christakou, A. (2015), Effectiveness of early mobilization in hospitalized patients with deep venous thrombosis. Retrieved from http://www. hospitalchronicles.gr/index.php/hchr/article/view/553

Critical Thinking Options for Unexpected Outcomes ...

Demonstrates how evaluation can lead to further interventions for unexpected outcomes.

Evidence-Based Practice ... Provides suggestions for best practice from available, current evidence.

EXPECTED OUTCOME UNEXPECTED OUTCOME POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS Verify time of day weights were measured.
 Verify if same scale was used for both weights.
 Verify equipment's reliability. General Assessm Patient's weight varies more than expected from one day to the next. Height and weight are obtained and recorded. Verify what clothing or linen was on the patient Verify What Column got meet was on the patient when weighed on both days.
 Verify I&O record for sources of fluid loss or gain.
 Verify MAR for medications that alter fluid balance (e.g., diuretics). Vital Signs Verify possible sources of infection and take Fever develops Temperature is within normal range preventive measures. Notify healthcare provider as needed.
 Implement cooling methods if temperature is dangerously high, such as tepid sponge bath, cool oral fluids, ice packs, or antipyretic drugs as ordered. Assess all vital signs. Request order to obtain culture of possible sources of infection.
 Give antipyretics and other drugs as ordered.
 Decrease room temperature and remove excess Temperature is within normal range Temperature remains elevated because of bacterial-produced pyrogens Give tepid sponge bath. Assess for blood clots; extreme low temperature can cause vasoconstriction.
 Implement measures to promote vasodilation Temperature remains subnormal. (application of warmth). If extremity is ischemic, monitor that heat source does not exceed body temperature. Assess all vital signs and status of the patient.
 Immediately call for the rapid response team.
 Initiate CPR immediately. Pulse is palpated without difficulty Apical, femoral, and carotid pulses Use Doppler device to assess for presence of pulse. Peripheral pulse is absent. Assess for other signs and symptoms of circulatory impairr Annea (absence of breathing) Respiratory rate, rhythm, and depth are within Assess patient for pulse Assess patient for pulse.
 Begin rescue breathing at the rate of 12 per minute for an adult or 20 per minute for a child. occurs, may be intermittent. Labored, difficult, or noisy respirations are Kussmaul respirations occur (deep Implement orders for diabetic ketoacidosis, renal and gasping breaths-more than failure, or septic shock. assessed 20 breaths/min).

REVIEW Questions

- A client receiving a unit of packed red blood cells begins to voriit 15 minutes into the transfusion. What should the nurse do first?
 - 1. Call for help
 - Stop the transfusion.
 Provide an emesis basin.
 Increase infusing normal saline.
- 2. The nurse assigns the UAP to complete morning care for a client
- with a sequential compression device. What inform the nurse instruct the UAP to report to the nurse? 1. Presence of pulses in the client's feet rmation should
- Condition of the skin under the device
- Amount of time the devices were turned off
- 4. Sensation and movement of the client's fee
- A new graduate is using an automated external defibrillator (AED) for a client who was discovered without a pulse. For which reason should the charge nurse intervene? 1. Resuming CPR after discharging the AED 2. Loudy stating "Clear" before discharging the AED 3. Stopping compressions for the AED to analyze the client's

- rhythm
- Placing electrode pads below the right clavicle and above the left nipple
- 4. The nurse evaluates the ability of the UAP to complete a 12-lead He has evaluates in a balling of the GAP of placement should the electrocardiogram for a client. Which lead placement should the nurse correct before the measurement is recorded? 1. Green lead placed on the client's right wrist 2. White lead placed on the client's right wrist

- V2 placed at the fourth intercostal space, left sternal border
 V6 placed at the fifth intercostal space, left midclavicular line

- 5. A client is prescribed 3-lead telemetry to monitor atrial fibrillation Which lead approach should the nurse use to obtain the best assessment of this client's atrial functioning?
 - 1. Lead I
- 2. Lead II 3. Lead III 4. Lead aVL
- 6. The nurse notes the following when analyzing a client's cardiac rhythm strip: atrial rate 60; ventricular rate 42; QRS width 0.10 seconds. Which diagnostic test should the nurse anticipate to determine the best treatment for this client's rhythm? Digoxin level
 - 2. T3 and T4 levels
 - Arterial blood gases
 Serum electrolyte levels
- 7. The nurse visits the home of a client with a newly inserted perment pacewais the home of a client with a rewry indected per-manent pacemaker. Which observation indicates that the client would benefit from additional teaching about the device? 1. Medical alert bracelet on the right wirst 2. Telephone transmission device installed

 - Pacemaker information card in the wallet 4. Cell phone in shirt pocket over the pacemake
- 8. A new graduate reports that a client's arterial blood pressure nonitor reading is 20 mmHg higher than the measurement from the previous shift. What should the nurse assess first to deter-mine the reason for the change in measurement?
 Calibration process
- Pressure bag setting
- Arterial site dressing
 Angle of the head of the bed

New! Review Ouestions with

answers and rationales feature NCLEX-style questions that relate to chapter-opening learning outcomes. They serve not only as a selfreview, but also as preparation for the licensing exam. Answers and rationales for the review questions can be found in Appendix A or in the Pearson MyLab and eText.

Resources

Instructor Resources

- New! Instructor's Resource Manual facilitates active learning in the classroom, lab, and clinical environment with class-tested interactive hands-on and cognitive exercises to help students apply concepts and exemplars.
- *New! Test Bank* offers test items written in NCLEX-like language.
- New! Image Library provides all the text's illustrations and photos to enhance your PowerPoint presentations and other materials.
- Skills Checklists deliver editable check-offs for each skill to assess students' competency, which can be used as is or can be tailored to meet local requirements.

Student Resources

- New! Enhanced eText, available via MyLab Nursing Concepts, offers a rich and engaging learning experience with interactive activities and exercises. Note: Access requires an adoption of MyLab Nursing Concepts.
- RealEHRprep with iCare, Developed as a partnership between iCare and Pearson Education, RealEHRPrep with iCare provides access to a real electronic health record system developed by healthcare information technology, and documentation activities created by education experts. Providing an environment that mirrors the point-of-care, students can document assessments, plan care, administer medications, communicate with other healthcare providers, and more.

Access to RealEHRPrep with iCare may be packaged with Pearson materials or purchased as a standalone item.

 Skills Hub, The Skills Hub app meets students where they are - on their smartphones and tablets - by providing procedural steps, skills videos, assessment, and progress tracking in one mobile application. Access to Skills Hub may be packaged with Pearson materials or purchased as a standalone item.

← Assessment	Ê				
PAIN					
	\leftarrow	Pain			
 CRITICAL ELEMENTS Understanding of the improversion of the term variations that can occur variat	pain, w	viding care to a client with chronic which characteristic or client nses should the nurse expect?			
PROCEDURE FOR NURSE TO H PROVIDER	A Heart rate, blood pressure, and pulse rate may be normal while the client is experiencing pain.				
 Prior to Treatment: (Critical Thi Review facility protocol ar care provider's orders for 	В	Opioid-based analgesics may have little, if any, effect on reducing the quality of chronic pain.			
assessment.Review previous pain asse treatments.Reassess pain after interv	С	The actual intensity of chronic pain is difficult to assess because the client may complain constantly			
 Patient Interaction: (Safety) Patient identifiers. 	D	The client may have adapted so successfully to the presence of chronic pain that measures for relief are unnecessary.			
	<	Check >			

Homework: Case Study: Chest Pair	i & MI (John Lockart)	Sa	ve							
icore: 0 of 1 pt	complete) 🔻 🕨 HW Sco	re: 0%, 0 of 10	pts							
CASE 1.5.1	:=	;≡ [•] iCare		ស 🔳	ALLEN,Cliff (64 yo M)	× +			CHRIS	TOPHER BARRY
CASE SCENARIO John Lockhart, a 49-year-old Caucasian male, comes to the ER. Recently, he has	As the nurse triaging John Lockhart, what would you be most o	(🔍) Dec	EN, Clifford Nbl 16, 1952 00:00 (64 : SPT6866		Diagnosis BPH		Care Team Unassigned		AL SURGERY	• •
been having odd aches and pains. He has some concerns about an increasing number of headaches, uncontrollable heartburn, and nausea. Upon further	O B. John was having a myocardial infarction	Procedures	Reports	Consults	Patient Info	Vitals	HL7 Message	Reminders	Cover Sheet	
uestioning by the ER nurse, the client admits to feeling chest pain while walking to he store and up a flight of stairs. He describes the pain as dull and heavy, and	C. John was having an acute attack of pleurisy D. John was having an esophageal spasm	VITALS			CLINICAL REMI	NDEPS		ACTIVE PRO	RIEMS	
occasionally radiates to his jaw and left arm. However, it tends to go away with rest. He denies any shortness of breath (SOB), but does admit to feeling a "fluttering" in	C bi com nachanig an coopingen opponi	Vital	Value	Date	Reminder	NDERG	Time Due	Problem	DLEMO	Onset
s chest. He states he is currently having some discomfort in his chest with a mild diation to his left arm and minimal nausea. He attributes these symptoms to		т	99.0 F(37.2 C)	Jan/15/2017 *	No cl	linical remin	nders found.	1	No active problems	s found
eartburn.		Р	84	Jan/15/2017						
DIRECTIONS		R	16	Jan/15/2017						
1. Open iCare's EHR. 2. Click Patient tab.		BP	120/70	Jan/15/2017						
In the Search box, type patient's surname and click the Search button.		PN	1	Jan/15/2017						
 Click the box beside Lockhart, John, and double click. Select Notes tab. 		BOX	0.6	lon/15/2017						
 Look across the top of the medical record. To close the medical record, click the X on the upper right corner of the tab. 		ACTIVE MED	ICATIONS				APPOINTMENTS/VISIT			
WARNING: DO NOT CHART IN JOHN LOCKHART'S RECORD.		Medication	% WITH 0.45% N/		Status		ocation GENERAL SURGERY*	Date Jan/14/2017 (Status	
		DEATROSES	76 WITH 0.4576 N/	GE INJ,SOLN	PENDING		GENERAL SURGERT	Jan/14/2017 0	00:00:00 NA	
lick to select your answer and then click Check Answer.										
Ill parts showing	ar All Final									
		ALLERGIES//	ADVERSE REACT	ONS	RECENT LAB RE	ESULTS		POSTING		

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SKILLS List by Key Word*

Items in black are major skills. Items in red are minor skills embedded within a major skill.

3-Lead or 5-Lead Electrode Telemetry Placement: Using, SKILL 12.10	19
Abdomen: Assessing, SKILL 1.10	30
Abdominal Binder: Applying, SKILL 16.2	663
Abuse: Newborn, Infant, Child, Older Adult, Assessing for, SKILL 15.1	636
After a Patient Falls: Assessing and Managing, SKILL 15.2	639
After Removal of Staple or Suture, Wound Care at Home: Teaching, SKILL 16.16	698
Airway Obstruction: Clearing, SKILL 11.21	516
Airway, Nasopharyngeal: Inserting, SKILL 11.11	493
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*Related Concepts can be found in Nursing: A Concept-Based Approach to Learning, Volumes 1 and 2, Third Edition.

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Chapter 1 Assessment

Chapter at a Glance

General Assessment

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Physical Assessment

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- SKILL 1.27 Thorax and Lungs: Assessing

The Concept of Assessment

Assessment provides nurses with information about the psychological, cognitive, and emotional well-being of patients that they can use to analyze the data critically, interpret it, and make clinical judgments to implement interventions for the best patient outcomes. Assessment includes many nursing skills and actions. It is the ability to observe and pay attention to significant signs that are seen, heard, smelled, and sensed by touch. Nurses use the techniques of palpation, auscultation, and percussion to perform physical assessment examinations. Nurses can measure and monitor temperatures, pulses, respirations, blood pressure readings, oxygen saturation, and pain. They can record and report data about the patient's history and current state of health, illness, home medications, cultural and spiritual beliefs, and acute and chronic conditions. Assessment tools can be scales and indexes (e.g., the Braden Scale to assess for risk of pressure injury, the Glasgow Coma Scale to assess consciousness, or a pain scale). Other tools such as the stethoscope, pulse oximeter, tape measure, thermometer, sphygmomanometer, and Doppler ultrasound (DUS) help nurses obtain assessment data.

Learning Outcomes

- **1.1** Summarize the role of observation when performing a general assessment.
- **1.2** Differentiate between normal and abnormal temperatures over the lifespan.
- **1.3** Support the reasoning of using a pulse oximeter for the patient with a respiratory problem.
- **1.4** Explain the examination procedures when doing a physical assessment using a head-to-toe framework.

2 Chapter 1 Assessment

- **1.5** Give examples of maneuvers used to test muscle strength throughout the body.
- **1.6** Explain lifespan considerations when performing a neurologic assessment on the older adult.

The following feature links some, but not all, of the concepts related to assessment. They are presented in alphabetical order.

Concepts Related to

Assessment

- **1.7** Differentiate between normal and abnormal breath sounds.
- **1.8** Demonstrate peripheral pulse assessment of an extremity.

CONCEPT	RELATIONSHIP TO ASSESSMENT	NURSING IMPLICATIONS
Caring Interventions	Individualize patient care to best meet needs of patient	Provide competent and compassionate nursing care to all patientsBuild awareness of self-care
Clinical Decision Making	Utilize assessment data to make clinical judgments about patient and set priorities of care	 Provide data to analyze, interpret, and implement nursing interventions to meet patient needs Clarify priority order of care to provide a variety of patients
Health, Wellness, and Illness	Build self-awareness of health, wellness, and illness status	 Provide support and encouragement to help patient change level of health, wellness, and illness
Safety	Support recognition of safety and quality care for patients and others	 Provide data to ensure correction of unsafe conditions for patient and others in maintaining a safe environment Include assessment techniques for patient and nurse safety
Skin Integrity	Observe any skin breakdown and monitor surgical wounds	 Provide data to recognize skin integrity alterations Monitor and evaluate healing progression resulting from nursing interventions

Health assessment, which is the collection and interpretation of data regarding the patient's previous and current health status, is one of the most important professional responsibilities of the registered nurse. Vigilance in performing relevant assessment techniques, determining the meaning of the findings, and taking appropriate action based on the evaluation of the data are central aspects of effective nursing care and cannot be delegated to those without the requisite skills and knowledge.

A holistic approach to assessment focuses on all aspects of the patient's mind and body to identify concerns that need to be addressed, including psychological, social, cultural, and spiritual health. Nurses gather subjective data from talking with the patient and or family and objective data from examining the patient. Experienced nurses may also use intuitive skills to notice significant cues about the patient.

Nurses can perform a comprehensive physical assessment of each individual body system. In practice, however, the generalist nurse performs a screening assessment of all systems (sometimes referred to as a head-to-toe assessment) when first encountering the patient and then more detailed focused assessments of particular systems as indicated by the patient's condition. Independent clinical judgment drives the selection of those components for which an assessment is indicated. **Box 1–1** » presents the order generally followed in performing a *head-to-toe assessment*. Advance practice nurses such as nurse practitioners may perform much more in-depth assessments of specific systems.

The traditional vital signs are body temperature, pulse, respirations, and blood pressure. Some healthcare facilities refer to pain as a fifth vital sign. Remembering that pain is an individual experience for patients relative to their medical history and current health status, nurses individualize their interventions for each patient. In addition, the effectiveness of respirations and circulation is commonly measured noninvasively through pulse oximetry (see Skill 1.7) at the same time as other vital signs.

All these signs, when looked at both individually and collectively, enable nurses to monitor the functions of the body. Vital signs can reflect changes that otherwise might not be observed. Monitoring a patient's vital signs should not be an automatic or routine procedure; it should be a thoughtful scientific assessment. Vital signs should be evaluated with reference to the patient's present and prior health status and compared to accepted standards (**Box 1–2**)). If findings appear inconsistent with those anticipated, they should immediately be rechecked. Some of the vital signs that are confirmed to vary from expected values may require nursing interventions, and a few represent medical emergencies.

Box 1–1

Head-to-Toe Framework

GENERAL SURVEY INCLUDING VITAL SIGNS

Areas below are assessed and include a determination of current complaints and inspection. Palpation, percussion, and auscultation are used if indicated.

- Head
 - Hair and face
 - Eyes and vision
 - Ears and hearing
 - Nose
 - Mouth and oropharynx
- Neck
 - Muscles
 - Lymph nodes
 - Trachea
 - Thyroid gland
 - Carotid arteries
 - Neck veins
- Upper extremities
 - Skin and nails
 - Muscle strength and tone
 - Joint range of motion

- Brachial and radial pulses
- Sensation
- Chest and back
- Skin
- Thorax shape and size
- Lungs
- Heart
- Spinal column
- Breasts and axillae
- Abdomen
 - Skin
 - Abdominal sounds
 - Femoral pulses
- External genitals
- Anus
- Lower extremities
- Skin and toenails
- Gait and balance; muscle strength and tone
- Sensation
- Joint range of motion
- Popliteal, posterior tibial, and dorsalis pedis pulses

Box 1–2

Times to Assess Vital Signs

- On admission to a healthcare facility to obtain baseline data
- When a patient has a change in health status or reports symptoms such as chest pain or feeling hot or faint
- Before and after surgery or an invasive procedure
- Before and/or after the administration of a medication that could affect the respiratory or cardiovascular systems; for example, before giving a digitalis preparation
- Before and after any nursing intervention that could affect the vital signs (e.g., ambulating a patient who has been on bedrest)

General Assessment

Expected Outcomes

- 1. Assessment data of the patient's appearance reveal expected normal findings.
- 2. Height and weight are obtained and recorded.
- 3. Patient's weight shows expected losses, gains, or stabilization.

SKILL 1.1 Appearance and Mental Status: Assessing

This skill provides an overall initial impression or review of wellbeing by observing a patient for acute distress, general physical appearance, body structure, mobility, behavior, nonverbal communication, and body measurements. Measurements can be compared to standard expected measurements for age and gender across the lifespan.

Delegation or Assignment

The initial general survey assessment is completed by the nurse and not delegated or assigned to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP). However, signs and symptoms of problems may be observed during usual care and may be recorded by individuals other than the nurse. Abnormal findings must be validated and interpreted by the nurse.

Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) are unlicensed healthcare workers trained to perform certain tasks delegated or assigned by nurses to help provide patient care as determined by facility policy. Nurses assess and evaluate the UAP's ability to complete a skill safely and accurately. The nurse remains responsible for the assessment, evaluation, and interpretation of abnormal findings and the determination 4 Chapter 1 Assessment

SKILL 1.1 Appearance and Mental Status: Assessing (continued)

of appropriate responses. There are many job titles for those considered a UAP, such as Patient Care Attendants, Home Health Aides, Certified Nursing Assistants, Medication Technicians, and Resident Assistants. Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) are not UAPs. They are licensed nurses who work under a Registered Nurse (RN) and are regulated by state Boards of Nursing.

Equipment

No equipment is required.

Preparation

- Observation of children's behavior can provide important data for the general survey, including physical development, neuromuscular function, and social and interactional skills.
- Safety for newborns, infants, and children includes having an adult attending the child on an examination table or bed to avoid falls during the assessment.

- It may be helpful to have parents hold older infants and very young children for part of the assessment.
- Allow extra time for older patients to answer questions.
- Adapt questioning techniques as appropriate for older patients with hearing or visual limitations.

Procedure

- Prior to performing the procedure, introduce self and verify the patient's identity using two identifiers. Explain to the patient and parent (if appropriate) what you are going to do, why it is necessary, and how the patient can participate. Discuss how the results will be used in planning further care or treatments.
- 2. Perform hand hygiene and observe appropriate infection control procedures.
- 3. Provide for patient privacy.
- 4. Complete a general survey.

ASSESSMENT	NORMAL FINDINGS	DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL
5. Observe body build, height, and weight in relation to the patient's age, lifestyle, and health.	Proportionate, varies with lifestyle	Excessively thin or obese
6. Observe patient's posture and gait, standing, sitting, and walking.	Relaxed, erect posture; coordinated movement	Tense, slouched, bent posture; uncoordinated movement; tremors, unbalanced gait
7. Observe patient's overall hygiene and grooming.	Clean, neat	Dirty, unkempt
8. Note body and breath odor in relation to activity level.	No body odor or minor body odor relative to work or exercise; no breath odor	Foul body odor; ammonia odor; acetone breath odor; foul breath
9. Observe for signs of distress in posture or facial expression.	No apparent distress	Bending over because of abdominal pain, wincing, frowning, or labored breathing
10. Note obvious signs of health or illness (e.g., in skin color or breathing).	Well developed, well nourished, intact skin, easy breathing	Pallor (paleness), weakness, lesions, cough
11. Assess the patient's attitude (frame of mind).	Cooperative, able to follow instructions	Negative, hostile, withdrawn, anxious
12. Note the patient's affect/mood; assess the appropriateness of the patient's responses.	Appropriate to situation	Inappropriate to situation, sudden mood changes, paranoia
13. Listen for speech quantity (amount and pace) and quality (loudness, clarity, inflection).	Understandable, moderate pace; clear tone and inflection	Rapid or slow pace; overly loud or soft
14. Listen for relevance and organization of thoughts.	Logical sequence, relevant answers, has sense of reality	Illogical sequence, flight of ideas, confusion, generalizations, vague
 When procedure is completed, perform hand hygiene and leave patient safe and comfortable. Complete documentation using forms, checklists, or electronic dropdown lists supplemented by nurse's notes or additional comments as appropriate 1. 		

SKILL 1.1 Appearance and Mental Status: Assessing (continued)

ADMISSION DATA	Date 4-16-19 Time 3:15p.m. Primary Language English Arrived Via: Wheelchair Stretcher Ambulatory From: Admitting ER Home Nursing Home Other Admitting M.D. R. Katz Time Notified 5 p.m. ORIENTATION TO UNIT YES NO YES NO Arm Band Correct Correct Smoking Policy Correlation Allergy Band Correlation TV, Lights, Bed Controls, Controls,		Recent Stress None Coping Mechanism Not assessed because of fatigue Support SystemHusband, coworkers, friends Calm: Yes □ No
	Electrical Policy Image: Call Lights, Side Rails Image: Call Lights, Side Rails Educational Mat'l Image: Nurses Station Image: Call Lights, Side Rails Educational Mat'l Image: Nurses Station Image: Call Lights, Side Rails (TV Brochure) Image: Call Lights, Side Rails Image: Call Lights, Side Rails Family M.D. R. Katz Weight 125 lb., Height 5ft. 2in. BP:R L 122/80 Temp. 103F Pulse 92, weak Resp2.8, shallow Source Providing Information Image: Patient Other	MUSCULO- NEUROLOGICAL SKELETAL	Oriented: Person Place Time Confused Sedated Alert Restless Lethargic Comatose Pupils: Equal Unequal Reactive Sluggish Other 3mm. Extremity Strength: Equal Unequal Speech: Clear Slurred Other
	Unable to Obtain History Reason for Admission (Onset, Duration, Pt.'s Perception) "Chest cold" X2 weeks S.O.B on exertion. "Lung pain,		L'Inner <u>s resarea la rarique when coughing</u>
ALLERGIES & REACTIONS	<u>fever</u> ," "Dr. says I have pneumonia." Drugs <u>Penicillin</u> Food/Other <u>None known</u> Signs & Symptoms <u>rash</u> , <u>nausea</u> Blood Reaction <u>Yes No</u> Dyes/Shellfish <u>Yes No</u>	CARDIOVASCULAR RESPIRATORY	Pattern: Even Uneven Shallow Dyspnea Ø Other diminished breath sounds (see NN) Breathing Sounds: Clear Ø Other inspiratory crackles Secretions: None Ø Other pink, thick sputum Cough: None Productive Nonproductive
MEDICATIONS	Current Meds Dose/Freq. Last Dose Synthroid 0.1 mg. daily 4-16, 8 a.m. Disposition of Meds: Home □ Pharmacy Safe *At Bedside ✓ No Major Problems □ Gastro		Pulses: Apical Rate _92-w ☑Reg. □ Irregular □ Pacemaker S = Strong W = Weak A = Absent D = Doppler Radial R _92 L Pedal R Edema: ☑Absent □ Present Site Perfusion: □ Warm □ Dry ☑ Diaphoretic □ Cool (Hat)
			Oral Mucosa Normal Other pale and dry Bowel Sounds: Normal Other <u>Abd. soft</u> Wt. Change: N/V Stool Frequency/Character1/day;soft Last B/M <u>4-15-19</u> Ostomy (type)
MEDICAL HISTORY	□ Cardiac Arthritis Arthritis Stroke Stroke Seizures Glaucoma Glaucoma Glaucoma Glaucoma Glaucoma Other Childbirth-2003 Surgery/Procedures Date Date 1999 Rartial thyroidectomy 2005	GENITOURINA	EquipNone Urine: Last VoidedThis morning. NormalAnuriaHematuriaDysuriaIncontinent [X]Otheramount & frequency since ill Catheter (type)Other LMP4-1-19Vaginal/Penile Discharge EquipNone Other
SPECIAL ASSISTIVE DEVICES	Wheelchair Contacts Venous Dentures Braces Hearing Aid Access Partial Cane/Crutches Prosthesis Device Upper Walker Glasses Epidural Catheter Lower	SELF CARE	Need Assist with: Ambulating Elimination Meals Hygiene Dressing While fatigued
VALUABLES	☐ Other <u>None</u> Patient informed Hospital not responsible for personal belongings. Valuables Disposition: □ Patient □ Safe□ Given to Patient/SO Signature <u>None</u>		Amanda Aquilini [F age 37] #4637651 DOB 11-02-82

NURSING ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT

(continued on next page)

6 Chapter 1 Assessment

SKILL 1.1 Appearance and Mental Status: Assessing (continued)

NUTRITION	General Appearance: Image: Well Nourished Emaciated Image: Other Image: Other Image: Other Appetite: Image: Ochoc other Image: Other Diet Liquid Meal Pattern 3/day Image: Other Image: Other Image: Other Image: Other Image: Other		1. What do you know about your present illness? "Dr. says I have pneumonia." "I will have an I.V." 2. What information do you want or need about your illness? "How long do I have to stay here?" 3. Would you like family/SO involved in your care? <u>Husband</u> , <u>Michael</u>		
SKIN ASSESSMENT	Color: Normal Flushed Pale Dusky Cyanotic Jaundiced Other Cheeks flushed hat General Description Surgical scars: RL@ abdomen; anterior neck Image: Superstand Scars: RL@ abdomen; anterior neck Note Cultures Obtained Note Cultures Obtained Image: Superstand Scars: RL@ abdomen; anterior neck Note Cultures Obtained Note Cultures Obtained Image: Superstand Scars: Note Cultures Obtained Superstand Scars: RL@ abdomen; anterior neck Image: Superstand Scars: Note Cultures Obtained Superstand Scars: Note Cultures Obtained Image: Superstand Scars: Note Cultures Obtained Superstand Scars: Superstand Scars: PRESSURE SORE TMAT RISK SCREENING CRITERIA Note Cultures Obtained Superstand Scars: Superstand Scars: PRESSURE Sore: Grade Grade Grade Grade Image: Skin Condition of scars: Incontinence of urine cold & dry Incontinence of feces Incontinent cold Scars: Chair to bed ambulation only Image: Stars and the red or denuded Stars and to bed Stars and to bed Superstand Scars and to bed Image: Stars and toto bed ambulation only Superse	EDUCATION/DISCHARGE PLANNING	 4. How long do you expect to be in the hospital? <u>"-1-2 days"</u> 5. What concerns do you have about leaving the hospital? <u>"</u>" "How long will I feel so tired all the time?" CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX Will patient need post discharge assistance with ADLs/physical functioning? □ Yes ∑ No □ Unknown Does patient have family capable of and willing to provide assistance post discharge? ∑ Yes □ No □ Unknown □ No family Is assistance needed beyond that which family can provide? □ Yes ∑ No □ Unknown Previous admission in the last six months? □ Yes ∑ No □ Unknown Previous admission in the last six months? □ Yes ∑ No □ Unknown Previous admission, later. Social Services Notified □ Yes ∑ No NARRATIVE NOTES S-c/o sharp chest pain when coughing and dyspnea on exertion. States unable to carry out regular daily exercise for past week. Coughing relieved "if I sit up and sit still." Nausea associated with coughing. Having occasional "chills." Occasionally becomes frightened, stating, "I can't breathe." Well groomed but "too tired to put on make-up." Assesses own supports as "good" (eg. relationship z husband). Is "worried" about daughter. 		
M	If one or more of the following are checked institute fall precautions/plan of care History of Falls Unsteady Gait Confusion/Disorientation Dizziness If two or more of the following are checked institute fall precautions/plan of care Age over 80 Utilizes cane, Sleeplessness Impaired vision walker, w/c Urgency/frequency Multiple Impaired hearing in elimination Diagnoses Medication/Sedative Inability to understand or /Diuretic etc. follow directions TIME Ary Medina, RN 4-16-19 RSE SIGNATURE/TITLE DATE TIME Argue MATE TIME		with neighbor. Concerned too about her work (is attorney). "I'll never get caught up." Had water at noon-no food today. OChest expansion < 3cm, no nasal flaring or use of accessory muscles. Breath sounds and insp. crackles in ® upper and lower chest. Capillary refill 5 seconds.		

NURSING ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT

1 Nursing assessment form (continued)