F: Respiratory Care
Major Competency Area: F
Respiratory Care

Priority: One

Competency: F-1
Airway Management

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

F-1-1 Demonstrate ability to apply clinical judgment and critical thinking skills in assessment and management of airway.

F-1-2 Demonstrate knowledge of human anatomy, physiology, and pathophysiology as it pertains to respiratory care.

F-1-3 Demonstrate ability to apply nursing process in care and teaching to clients and family in regard to respiratory conditions and complications such as:
  - acute respiratory failure
  - asthma
  - allergic reaction
  - anaphylactic reaction
  - atelectasis
  - cancer of the lung
  - chronic bronchitis
  - chronic obstruction pulmonary disease (COPD)
  - congestive heart failure
  - emphysema
  - pneumonia
  - pulmonary tuberculosis.

F-1-4 Demonstrate ability to apply nursing process in care and teaching to client and family of actual and / or potential problems associated with respiratory disorders such as:
  - ineffective breathing pattern
  - ineffective airway clearance
  - activity intolerance
  - anxiety
  - altered nutrition
  - altered sleep pattern
  - trauma.
Major Competency Area: **F**  
Respiratory Care  

Priority: **One**

**Competency: F-2**  
Oxygen Therapy  

**Date:** September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**F-2-1** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize the indications for administration of oxygen.

**F-2-2** Demonstrate knowledge and application of types of oxygen therapy such as:
- aerosol mask (simple face mask)
- continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine
- high flow oximizers
- humidification
- nasal cannula
- nasal catheter
- non re-breathing mask
- partial re-breather mask.

**F-2-3** Demonstrate safety precautions when using and maintaining oxygen therapy from wall outlets, portable tanks, and oxygen concentrator.

**F-2-4** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess ongoing need for oxygen therapy using pulse oximetry:
- recognize and report any abnormal findings:
  - on room air
  - on oxygen device
- use oximetry devices.
Major Competency Area: **F**  
**Respiratory Care**

Priority: **One**

Competency: **F-3**  
**Suctioning**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**F-3-1**  
**Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess and perform suctioning as per agency policy.**

**F-3-2**  
**Demonstrate knowledge and ability to use suction equipment:**
- appropriate size and lumen of suction catheters
- appropriate suction pressure
- bulb suction of newborn
- portable suction
- suctioning of infant and newborn
- wall suction
- younker suction.

**F-3-3**  
**Demonstrate ability to perform suctioning considering the need for deep and shallow suction:**
- frequency of suctioning
- nasopharyngeal suctioning
- oral suctioning
- oropharyngeal suctioning
- tracheostomy tube suctioning.

**F-3-4**  
**Demonstrate ability to maintain suctioning equipment.**
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**F-4-1** Demonstrate the ability to assess the client and administer respiratory treatments such as:
- auscultation of the chest
- bronchodilation agents i.e., ventolin
- client teaching
- nebulization
- pre and post peak flows.

**F-4-2** Demonstrate ability to assess the need for, and be able to perform, chest physiotherapy:
- client / family teaching
- deep breathing and coughing
- encourage fluid intake
- incentive spirometer
- orthopneic position
- percussion (clapping)
- postural drainage
- relaxation
- vibration.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**F-5-1** Demonstrate ability to identify the purposes of endotracheal and tracheostomy tubes.

**F-5-2** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform the care of a tracheostomy using appropriate equipment and supplies:
- changing a tracheostomy dressing
- changing established tracheostomy
- changing of tracheostomy ties
- cleaning a double cannula tracheostomy tube
- deflating / inflating a tracheostomy cuff
- instilling solution or medication into a tracheostomy (See Competency Band U)
- plugging a tracheostomy tube
- suctioning
- using manual resuscitation (Ambu bag).

**F-5-3** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to identify the purposes of mechanical ventilation.

**F-5-4** Demonstrate ability to recognize the need and application of humidification in tracheostomy care.

**F-5-5** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize the complications, clinical manifestations, and nursing interventions related to tracheostomy care:
- accidental dislodgment of tracheostomy tube
- airway obstruction
- bronchospasm
- cuff leak
- tracheal necrosis.

**F-5-6** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to teach tracheostomy care to the client and significant others.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

F-6-1 Demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology of the respiratory system.

F-6-2 Demonstrate knowledge of the indications for chest tube insertion:
- pneumothorax
- hemothorax
- tension pneumothorax
- surgical treatment.

F-6-3 Demonstrate ability to identify and describe the location and purpose of types of chest tubes:
- pleural
- mediastinal.

F-6-4 Demonstrate ability to identify and describe the mechanisms used to drain fluid and air from the pleural cavity or mediastinum:
- gravity
- suction
- underwater seal drainage.

F-6-5 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to identify components of the commercial chest drainage system such as:
- air vent
- collection chamber
- port for adding water to system
- suction control system
- tubing attached to chest tube
- water seal chamber.

F-6-6 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist with the insertion of a chest tube and to set up a chest drainage system.
Competency: F-6

Chest Tubes

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

F-6-7 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to identify the equipment and supplies required to care for a client with a chest drainage system.

F-6-8 Demonstrate ability to identify steps and the rationale underlying each step for care of a client with a chest drainage system.

F-6-9 Demonstrate ability to identify the nursing interventions for the following problems that can result with a chest drainage system such as:
- continuous bubbling in the water seal chamber
- absence of fluid fluctuation in water seal chamber
- apparatus lifted above clients chest
- apparatus becomes broken
- chest tubes accidentally pulled out
- subcutaneous emphysema.

F-6-10 Demonstrate knowledge of chest drainage systems in the teaching of clients and significant others.

F-6-11 Demonstrate ability to report and document abnormal findings for a client with a chest drainage system such as:
- hemorrhage
- incorrect tube placement
- infection
- lung laceration
- plugging of tube
- re-expansion pulmonary edema.

F-6-12 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to document information when caring for a client with a chest drainage such as:
- abnormal findings
- actions taken
- amount and characteristics of drainage
- assessment data
- client’s position
- patency of system
- presence of bubbling or fluctuation
- type of system.