I: Neurological / Neurovascular Nursing
Major Competency Area: I

Neurological / Neurovascular Nursing

Priority: One

Competency: I-1

Neurological / Neurovascular Assessment

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

I-1-1 Demonstrate knowledge of the human anatomy and physiology of the neurological and neurovascular systems.

I-1-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to identify and perform neurological / neurovascular assessments such as:

- neurological vital sign assessment:
  - level of consciousness (LOC)
  - pupil size and reaction
  - motor- handgrips, leg movement, gait
  - glasgow coma score measuring:
    - best motor response
    - best verbal response
    - eye opening
  - blood pressure
  - pulse
  - respirations:
    - accessory muscle use
    - auscultate lung fields
    - cough
    - expectorated secretions
    - oxygen saturation
    - rate and depth
  - decorticate reflex
  - decerebrate reflex
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

I-1-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to identify and perform neurological / neurovascular assessments, such as: (continued)
- neurovascular assessment
- peripheral assessment:
  - color, sensation, and movement (CSM)
  - temperature
  - capillary refill
  - pulses
- any other pertinent observations i.e., swelling.

I-1-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess the signs of increased intracranial pressure and respond appropriately.

I-1-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize impaired neurological and neurovascular status.

I-1-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide teaching regarding neurovital and neurovascular assessments to client and significant others.

I-1-6 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize the need for further assistance and seek consultation from appropriate health professional.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

I-2-1 **Demonstrate knowledge and ability to protect client from injury during seizure:**
- removal of obstacles from immediate surroundings
- maintain open airway
- protect from injury
- remain with client
- call for assistance
- use appropriate measures to protect self.

I-2-2 **Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess seizure activity:**
- time and duration of the seizure
- character of movements
- observe for level of consciousness and physical changes
- identify factors which precipitated the seizure
- observe for Medical Alert bracelet.

I-2-3 **Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide care following seizure:**
- turn client on side to ensure airway patency
- suction client as required
- monitor vital signs and level of consciousness
- note any injury sustained during seizure
- note presence of lethargy, confusion, headache, speech impairment, muscle soreness
- provide hygienic measures.

I-2-4 **Demonstrate ability to report and document the event, client status, and nursing interventions according to protocol.**
Major Competency Area: I
Neurological / Neurovascular Nursing

Priority: One

Competency: I-3
Spinal Precautions

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

I-3-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess for spinal injury.

I-3-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply and maintain spinal precautions such as:
- ensure spinal precautions as ordered by physician / nurse practitioner
- proper body alignment at all times
- spinal collars, application, and removal
- assist to stabilize the spine with manual and / or mechanical traction.

I-3-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide nursing care and interventions specific to the client with spinal injury such as:
- assess motor power
- assess neurovascular status
- assess skin care and institute protective measures
- care of drainage tubes and equipment
- safety precautions with casts, clam shells, halo traction
- provide wound care
- elimination.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

I-4-1 Demonstrate knowledge to recognize impaired neurological and neurovascular status, and assist client and family to discuss concerns.

I-4-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize the normal stages to accepting permanent loss of function, and support the client and family.

I-4-3 Demonstrate ability to offer emotional support to client and family:
- demonstrate caring and concern
- use effective communication techniques.

I-4-4 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to refer to appropriate support services such as:
- pastoral care
- occupational therapy
- physiotherapy
- home care
- social work
- support groups
- speech and language specialists.

I-4-5 Demonstrate ability to adjust care to accommodate client’s age, gender, culture, disability and deficits, coping within new limitations, and rehabilitation.