B: Nursing Process
Major Competency Area: B  
Nursing Process

Priority: One

Competency: B-1  
Assessment

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

B-1-1 Demonstrate ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment in the health assessment.

B-1-2 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to assess the client:
  - collect data
  - historical
  - current
  - subjective
  - objective.

B-1-3 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to identify primary and secondary sources of data.

B-1-4 Demonstrate methods of data collection:
  - client / family interview
  - health history
  - statistical data
  - allergies
  - chief complaint
  - past health history
  - family medical history
  - medication history
  - lab values
  - social history
  - cultural / spiritual history
  - personal directives document
  - personal history.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**B-1-5 Demonstrate ability to perform the physical assessment:**

- systems assessment including, but not limited to:
  - cardiovascular
  - gastrointestinal
  - genitourinary
  - gynecological
  - integumentary
  - musculoskeletal
  - neurological
  - neurovascular
  - respiratory
- head to toe physical assessment using techniques such as:
  - inspection:
    - visual inspection of a body part or cavity
    - characteristics, e.g., size, shape, colour, symmetry, position, and abnormalities
    - digital cameras, dopplers, and bladder scanners
  - palpation:
    - use of fingers or hands to assess an organ, areas of the body or mass of tissue
    - observe for characteristics while palpating:
      - temperature
      - texture
      - turgor
      - moisture
      - size
      - vibrations
      - pulsation
      - shape
      - consistency
      - pain or tenderness.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**B-1-5** Demonstrate ability to perform the physical assessment: (continued)
- percussion:
  - striking or tapping an area of the body for determining density, size, and location of an underlying structure
  - observe for characteristics during percussion
  - differential of sounds:
    - percussion sound
    - intensity
    - pitch
    - duration
    - quality
- auscultation:
  - act of listening to sounds produced by the organs and blood vessels of the body
  - observe for characteristics while auscultating:
    - pitch
    - loudness
    - quality
    - duration.

**B-1-6** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform vital sign and other assessments such as:
- temperature
- pulse
- respiration
- blood pressure
- pulse oximetry
- blood glucose.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**B-2-1** Demonstrate ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment in the planning of care.

**B-2-2** Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to implement the planning process and establish priorities based on:
- client needs / resources / privacy
- client safety / risks
- client desires / goals
- family involvement
- agency situation
- timelines.

**B-2-3** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to identify and analyze nursing diagnoses.

**B-2-4** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to prioritize the nursing diagnosis.

**B-2-5** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to establish goals of care and expected outcomes:
- short term
- interim
- long term.

**B-2-6** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to develop the nursing care plan:
- written in terms of client behaviour
- goals and outcomes must be observable and measurable
- time orientated
- clear and concise
- consistent with physician orders
- consistent with agency plan of care
- document and communicate with health care team.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**B-3-1** Demonstrate ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment during implementation of care plan.

**B-3-2** Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to carry out interventions of the nursing care plan:
- reassess client
- review plan of care
- modify care plan
- organize equipment and supplies
- prepare environment
- client and family teaching
- anticipate and intervene to prevent complications
- consult with other health professionals as required
- reporting and documentation.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

B-4-1 Demonstrate ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment during ongoing evaluation of client.

B-4-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to evaluate client’s response to care:
- assess the client’s response to nursing actions
- assess the client’s progress toward achieving goals
- assess the quality / effectiveness of nursing care provided
- measure the level of nursing care for the client
- determine family / social support system
- compare observed results with outcome criteria
- revise nursing diagnosis, outcomes, and care plan as needed
- follow through on further actions as indicated by assessment findings
- collaborate with health care team as appropriate
- document and communicate results of evaluation.