

# **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

Competency: **I-1**

**Neurological / Neurovascular  
Assessment**

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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.**

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Competency: **I-2**  
**Seizures**

Date: September 1, 2005

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.**

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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.

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Competency: **I-4**  
**Support to the Client / Family**

Date: September 1, 2005

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.**