

N: Emergency Nursing

Major Competency Area: N
Emergency Nursing

Priority: **One**

Competency: **N-1**
Multi-Systems Assessment

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-1-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment to adapt health assessment to emergency nursing.

N-1-2 Demonstrate ability to perform neurological assessment:

- neurological vital signs
- generalized seizure activity
- glasgow coma scale
- level of consciousness
- loss of consciousness
- motor function
- pupil reaction
- oxygen saturation
- sensory function
- visual acuity.

N-1-3 Demonstrate ability to perform peripheral neurovascular assessment:

- peripheral assessment
- color, sensation, movement (CSM).

N-1-4 Demonstrate ability to perform respiratory assessment:

- accessory muscle use
- auscultation of lung fields
- colour
- cough
- cyanosis
- expectorated secretions
- jugular vein distention
- O₂ saturation per monitor

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-1-4 Demonstrate ability to perform respiratory assessment: (continued)

- peak flow
- respiration – rate, rhythm, quality
- tracheal deviation
- tracheal tug.

N-1-5 Demonstrate ability to assess the cardiovascular system:

- application of ECG leads and monitoring
- application of external cardiac monitoring leads
- auscultation of chest
- blood pressure, postural, and palpable BP
- heart rate, rhythm, and peripheral pulses
- heart sounds (S1,S2)
- capillary refill
- perspiration
- pitting edema
- signs or symptoms of infection
- lab findings.

N-1-6 Demonstrate ability to perform a musculoskeletal assessment:

- soft tissue injuries / multiple system injuries / trauma
- fractures
- dislocations
- degenerative disorders
- mobility and ambulation.

N-1-7 Demonstrate ability to perform genitourinary assessment:

- assess patency of urinary catheter
- bladder scanning
- check external genitalia for signs of trauma
- insert and remove catheter
- lab findings
- monitor urinary output
- palpate for bladder distention
- strain urine for calculi.

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-1-8 Demonstrate ability to complete a gynecological assessment:

- gravida, para, abortions
- last normal menstrual period (LNMP)
- vaginal discharge or blood loss
- previous gynecological surgery
- cramping, labor pains
- length of last labor
- previous premature births
- birth control history
- pregnancy testing.

N-1-9 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to document and report assessment findings to the appropriate health professional.

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Competency: N-2
Identify Priority Needs

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-2-1 Demonstrate ability to collaborate within health team and contribute to client assessment:

- perform rapid primary initial assessment
- perform secondary assessment that relates to clients overall health status
- obtain relevant health history
- recognize individuals at risk for self harm and or harm to others
- assess need for precautionary measures
- follow isolation techniques
- ensure client confidentiality and privacy within limits of environment
- describe symptoms
- pain assessment
- participate in the triage and screening of clients
- record findings and report to health team.

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Competency: **N-3**
Nursing Interventions

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-3-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform nursing procedures such as:

- administer medications (See Competency Band U)
- apply and monitor cardiac monitor
- assemble and use ambubag
- bladder irrigation
- burn dressings
- catheter insertion, removal, care, irrigation
- ensure consent is signed for invasive procedures
- gastrointestinal interventions i.e., insertion of nasogastric tube, enema
- hot and cold compresses
- monitor client on ongoing basis – circulatory, vital signs, O₂ saturation
- ophthalmic interventions
- ostomy care and irrigation
- pre-operative care
- prepare body for morgue and viewing while maintaining the integrity of forensic evidence
- prepare client for procedures and treatments
- provide infusion therapy (see Competency Band V)
- remove sutures and staples
- wound care
- other treatments and procedures as appropriate within scope of practice
- apply and monitor telemetry
- apply 12 and 15 lead ECG and connection to cardiac monitor
- initiate peripheral infusion (see Competency Band V)
- non-stress tests on prenatal clients
- phlebotomy (see Competency Band DD).

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Restricted Activity Authorization

Competency: **N-4**

Assist with Emergency Interventions

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-4-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist the physician / nurse practitioner with interventions such as:

- complex dressing procedures
- irrigations
- manual traction
- preserving amputated parts
- restraints
- stabilize fractures
- suturing of wounds
- adult / child abuse / sexual assault procedures
- application of mast trousers
- application of traction apparatus and pins
- Bier block / pneumatic tourniquet
- biopsy
- blood alcohol samples with appropriate documents
- compartment and compression syndrome measurement
- gastric lavage
- lumbar puncture
- nerve block
- paracentesis
- plastic surgery and amputation
- thoracentesis
- measure for and insert oral airway, as appropriate
- assist with other treatments and procedures as appropriate and necessary.

Competency: N-4

Assist with Emergency Interventions

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A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-4-2 Demonstrate understanding of restricted activity in LPN Regulations authorizing administration of nitrous oxide:

“All regulated members may provide the restricted activity of administering nitrous oxide for the purposes of anaesthesia or sedation if a person who is authorized to provide that restricted activity is on site and immediately available to assist.”

Health Professions Act LPN Regulation 2003

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Competency: **N-5**
Knowledge of Equipment

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-5-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to set up and maintain equipment and devices such as:

- automatic blood pressure meter
- change portable O₂
- infusion pumps
- peak flow meter
- pulse oximetry for adults and pediatrics
- chest tube tray and commercial drainage system
- intravenous lines
- suction and suction pumps
- spirometry
- cautery equipment
- ECG machine
- nitrous oxide tanks
- ventilator machines
- other specialized equipment as appropriate and necessary.

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Competency: **N-6**
Support and Teach Client / Family

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

N-6-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to support and teach client, family, and significant others in the emergency nursing environment.