G: Surgical
Major Competency Area: G
Surgical

Competency: G-1
Surgical Nursing

Date: June 1, 2015

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

G-1-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and critical inquiry throughout the nursing process in care of a surgical client.

G-1-2 Demonstrate knowledge of clinical pathways related to surgical procedures including:
- pre-operative
- intra-operative
- post-operative
- anticipated and unanticipated outcomes
- complications

G-1-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide evidence informed, client centered care in relation to surgical nursing.

G-1-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide health teaching and coaching associated with surgical nursing.

G-1-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to communicate and collaborate with inter-professional team.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**G-2-1** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide health teaching and coaching associated with pre and postoperative care including:
- deep breathing and coughing
- dietary needs and restrictions
- discharge education
- drains and tubes
- incentive spirometer
- medication management
- mobility and exercise
- pain control
- personal directive
- post-operative care and rehabilitation
- referrals
- surgical site and dressing

**G-2-2** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform preoperative care according to agency policy including:
- confirm oral intake restrictions
- ensure client/witness consent
- family contact information
- preoperative history and assessment
- pre-surgical preparation
- transfer client to operating room
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**G-2-3** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive client from recovery room and perform postoperative care including:
- review physician/surgeon orders
- initial postoperative assessment related to:
  - binders/compression devices
  - casts/splints/orthopedic devices
  - cognitive status
  - dermatome checks
  - drainage devices and connections
  - dressing/wounds
  - infusion therapy
  - neurovascular checks
  - oxygen saturation
  - pain and discomfort
  - vital signs
- ongoing monitoring for postoperative complications
- safety precautions/mobilization/transfer methods
- nutrition/elimination needs
- pain management:
  - pain assessment
  - administer analgesics
  - manage patient controlled analgesia (PCA) pump
  - monitor epidural infusion

**G-2-4** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess and manage surgical incision and wound care to facilitate healing:
- dressings
- empty, remove and shorten drains
- irrigation
- packing
- removal of packing
- removal of staples and sutures
- wound VAC (vacuum assisted closure)
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**G-3-1** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and critical inquiry throughout the nursing process in various procedures associated with therapeutic and diagnostic endoscopy.

**G-3-2** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform pre-procedural care including:
- complete health history
- medication reconciliation
- admission assessment
- pre-procedural checklist
- medication administration

**G-3-3** Demonstrate knowledge of risks and precautions related to procedural sedation such as:
- continuous assessment of client
- intravenous direct procedure
- monitoring of infusion

**G-3-4** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform post-procedural care including:
- observing for signs and symptoms of post-procedural complications including:
  - abdominal bloating
  - abdominal pain
  - chest pain
  - crepitus
  - decrease in client condition
  - nausea and vomiting
  - perforation
  - rectal bleeding
  - swelling of throat
  - vital signs
- pain/comfort management
- discharge health teaching and coaching
- referral to resources
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

G-3-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform client assessment, monitoring and intervention during various procedures associated with endoscopy.

G-3-6 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to administer procedural sedation according to agency policy.

G-3-7 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist with/perform various procedures associated with therapeutic and diagnostic endoscopy according to agency policy including:
- upper/lower gastrointestinal procedures
- pulmonary procedures
- stabilize scope for the purpose of visualization
- manage inflation/deflation of dilation device as directed
- submucosal/intramural injection or tattoo-marking medication(s) as directed
- manipulate biopsy and retrieval equipment to obtain specimen as directed
- manipulate clip device to open, close and release as directed
- prepare cautery equipment for use
- prepare Hemospray device and deliver Hemospray dose as directed
- assist physician with preparation of banding device
- prepare and label specimens

G-3-8 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform post-procedural equipment cleaning and preparation for sterilization according to agency policy.

Note: LPNs are not authorized to advance or withdraw (manipulate) scope.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**G-4-1** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive and manage client for post anesthetic recovery:
- perform initial and continuing client assessment including
  - blood loss
  - drains
  - infusion lines
  - level of consciousness
  - pain management
  - urine output
  - vital signs
  - wound dressings
- guide client to consciousness
- monitor blood and manage fluid infusions
- respond to client questions and personal needs
- medication administration
- change or reinforce wound dressings as necessary
- monitor client for changes in condition
- report and manage post-operative complications
- consult and collaborate with inter-professional team
- complete post-operative checklist and documentation

**G-4-2** Demonstrate knowledge and ability to manage client for immediate post anesthetic recovery in post anesthetic care unit (PACU).