G: Respiratory

Please note: Competencies within this section of the Profile are to be taken in consideration with competencies outlined throughout this document and are not intended to be standalone.

Important: LPNs are responsible to ensure they have any required education or training and the individual competence prior to performing these competencies.
Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

G-1-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide respiratory interventions.

G-1-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize indications and contraindications for performing chest physiotherapy:
- assisted coughing
- deep breathing and coughing
- incentive spirometer
- orthopneic position
- percussion
- postural drainage
- vibration

G-1-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to evaluate effects of respiratory interventions.

G-1-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to manage airway issues associated with acute and chronic conditions.

G-1-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to manage airway devices:
- insert, manage and remove oropharyngeal airway
- insert, manage and remove nasopharyngeal airway
- manage endotracheal airway
- manage laryngeal mask airway
- manage other respiratory assist devices:
  - Ambu bag
  - bag-valve mask
  - bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP)
  - continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP)

G-1-6 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide care for patient with mechanical ventilation according to employer requirements.

G-1-7 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide health teaching and coaching associated with respiratory compromise:
- activity intolerance
- airway management
- altered sleep pattern
- anxiety
- ineffective airway clearance
- ineffective breathing pattern
- trauma
- disease process

G-1-8 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize indications and contraindications for oxygen administration.
Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

G-1-9 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply and manage oxygen therapy devices:
  • aerosol mask (simple face mask)
  • high flow oxymizer
  • nasal cannula
  • nasal catheter
  • non re-breathing mask
  • oropharyngeal airway
  • partial re-breather mask
  • bi-level positive airway pressure (BiPAP) machine
  • continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine
  • oximetry and capnography

G-1-10 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to care for patient with oxygen therapy devices:
  • monitor laryngeal mask airway
  • monitor nasopharyngeal airway
  • monitor ventilator

G-1-11 Demonstrate knowledge of safety precautions when utilizing oxygen therapy.

G-1-12 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize indications and contraindications for suctioning.

G-1-13 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform suctioning beyond the pharynx or endotracheal opening according to employer requirements:
  • appropriate size and lumen of suction catheters
  • appropriate suction pressure
  • frequency of suctioning

G-1-14 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to manage suctioning equipment.

G-1-15 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize indications and contraindications associated with tracheostomy care.

G-1-16 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to manage tracheostomy care:
  • changing tracheostomy dressing
  • changing established tracheostomy
  • changing of tracheostomy ties
  • cleaning a double cannula tracheostomy tube
  • deflating or inflating a tracheostomy cuff
  • manage humidification
  • instilling solution or medication into a tracheostomy
  • plugging a tracheostomy tube
  • suctioning
  • using manual resuscitation (Ambu bag)

G-1-17 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize indications and contraindications of mechanical ventilation.
Competency Statement - A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

G-2-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and evidence-informed inquiry throughout the nursing process in care for patient with chest drainage system.

G-2-2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the indications and contraindications for chest tube insertion:
- hemotorax
- spontaneous or traumatic pneumothorax
- tension pneumothorax
- pleural effusion
- cardiac tamponade
- diaphragmatic hernia
- hepatic hydrothorax
- refractory coagulopathy

G-2-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to identify and describe purpose of pleural or mediastinal chest tubes.

G-2-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist with insertion and removal of chest tubes.

G-2-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to setup, manage, and assess a chest drainage system.

G-2-6 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to identify potential complications for patients with chest drainage system:
- compromise in system patency
- disconnection or malfunction
- incorrect placement, dislodgement, or occlusion
- hemorrhage
- pulmonary edema
- infection
- subcutaneous emphysema