

Beebe Healthcare
Margaret H. Rollins School of Nursing
Nursing 101 - Foundations of Nursing

**NURSING CARE OF THE CLIENT UNDERGOING
DIAGNOSTIC TESTING**

2022

THE ROLE OF THE NURSE

CLIENT PREPARATION: Is the nurse's responsibility.

◆ ***Scheduling-***

Depends on the depends on the type of test.

Fasting tests should be scheduled in the early morning.

Try to group similar tests together to avoid unnecessary resampling

Order test in proper sequence.

◆ ***Teaching-***

Part of the nurse's role is to explain the diagnostic test to the client. All of this includes:

Preparation for test, procedure, post-test care. The nurse will explain information the test will provide. Explanations need to be clear and simple.

This will help relieve the client's anxiety, ensure cooperation, or help the client cope with a painful procedure.

Common questions you need to be able to answer:

What will they do?

Where will the test be done?

Will it be painful?

How long will it take?

When will I know the results?

◆ ***Informed Consent-***

The client needs to be informed about the procedure, risks and benefits, & alternatives.

Some procedures require written consent – client must sign a form giving consent for the procedure / test. Usually invasive types of procedures.

◆ ***Physical Preparation-***

Many procedures require specific physical preparation to ensure accurate test results.

Fasting is commonly required. If a client is NPO & is receiving routine medications, it is necessary to

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obtain a Healthcare Provider's order

Cleansing the bowel: (clear liquids, laxatives, enemas) - Allows visualization of internal organs

Skin cleansing or scrubbing: This decreases the chance of infection!

Medications: at a specific time before the test, certain medications are given prior to a test or procedure.

◆ ***Collection of Supplies-***

It is the nurse's responsibility to prepare the necessary equipment & assist the healthcare provider, particularly those procedures done at the bedside (thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, cortisone injection, aspiration of a septic knee).

RESPONSIBILITIES DURING TESTING:

◆ ***Client Assessment-***

Prior to the procedure-

During the procedure-

Post procedure-

◆ ***Client Support-***

Supporting the client is an important function performed by the nurse.

Support activities include:

- Holding a client's hand
- Quietly standing next to the client
- Distraction techniques or visual imagery may help decrease anxiety
- Statements about what to expect (i.e.- "We are just about finished.")
- Making sure they are warm

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- Communicating with the waiting family members

◆ **Client Positioning-**

Often the nurses' responsibility is to position the client during the procedure.

- Assisting the client into a position of _____.
- Assisting the client into a specific position as indicated by _____
(Lumbar Puncture, Bone biopsy, etc.)
- Assisting the client to _____.

RESPONSIBILITIES AFTER TESTING

◆ **Client assessment-**

It is important to know about *specific complications* for each procedure.

Some procedures require specific assessments pertaining to the procedure (i.e. – arteriogram – check for bleeding, pulse).

◆ **Specimen collection and equipment-**

Specimen collected in the _____.

_____ properly and

_____ to the lab (pneumatic tube system, etc.).

_____ the work area after the exam.

◆ **Documentation-**

- Type of procedure
- Name of the person performing the procedure
- Date & time
- Summary of the assessments before, during, & after the procedure
- Collection of specimens
- Client's response & any complications.

◆ **Client and family support-**

- ◆ Provide information about when the test results should be available.
- ◆ Spend time with the client (Comfort them)

◆ **Individualized care based on data-**

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Nurses use information obtained through laboratory & dx testing to help guide their plan of care. The use of test results helps guide your nursing plan of care; may be the most important aspect of dx & laboratory testing!!

SUMMARY & CASE SCENARIO

You should have printed the handout prior to class or have available on your computer.

Using *Mosby's Diagnostic & Laboratory Test Reference* (Pagana, Pagana, & Pagana)