

Universal Competencies

| Universal Competency | Critical Elements: “Did the Nurse ...” (Examples but Not All Inclusive) |
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| <p>Safety and Security (Physical)</p> | <p>ID patient Allergies 2 patient identifiers Pre-procedure time-out Professional interactions Fall bundle Non-skid socks Bed rails raised Bed in low position and locked No clutter on the floor 7 Rights for Medication administration Patient Drug Dose Time Route Reason Documentation</p> |
| <p>Safety and Security (Emotional)</p> | <p>4 P’s: Pain, Potty, Position, Possessions AIDET: Acknowledge, Introduce, Duration, Explanation, Thank Provide privacy Promote trust and respect Patient confidentiality (HIPPA)</p> |
| <p>Standard Precaution (Asepsis)</p> | <p>Hand washing/hygiene Clean gloves: patient, room, medication preparation Clean stethoscope, pulse oximeter, and other equipment Scrub the hub, sites Asepsis: Medication preparation/CVAD dressing change/urinary catheter insertion Special precautions as required Dispose of contaminated materials correctly</p> |
| <p>Communication</p> | <p>Teaching (medication safety, procedure, etc.) Modify language and communication style to be consistent with patient’s needs, cultural values, etc. Utilize resources to enable communication consistent with agency protocols</p> |
| <p>Critical Thinking</p> | <p>SBAR: Situation, Background, Assessment,</p> |

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| | <p>Recommendation (Comprehension)</p> <p>Decision making (i.e. give med or not, correct needle length, syringe size, dilution)</p> <p>Prioritization of tasks/procedures</p> <p>Evaluation and revision of interventions</p> <p>Assessment related to patient symptoms</p> |
| Documentation | <p>Scan medications</p> <p>Any narrative or exception charting of findings</p> <p>Save all documentation: meds, assessments, procedures, etc.</p> |
| Human Caring | <p>Treat patient with respect and dignity – i.e. do not use “pet” names</p> <p>Provision of privacy</p> <p>Listening to the patient's needs</p> <p>Spending time with the patient</p> <p>Involve patient in their plan of care</p> |
| Professional Role | <p>Appearance</p> <p>Interaction with pt., peers, staff, family</p> <p>Maintains clean working environment</p> <p>Manages equipment, supplies, and human resources efficiently and economically</p> |

Universal competencies guide nursing behaviors and moral/ethical compass when managing patient care. **Universal competencies are “A Must” in every interaction a nurse has with a patient.**