

Universal Competencies

Universal Competency	Critical Elements: “Did the Nurse ...” (Examples but Not All Inclusive)
Safety and Security (Physical)	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
Safety and Security (Emotional)	4 P's: Pain, Potty, Position, Possessions AIDET: Acknowledge, Introduce, Duration, Explanation, Thank Provide privacy Promote trust and respect Patient confidentiality (HIPPA)
Standard Precaution (Asepsis)	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
Communication	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

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

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.**