

Safety and infection control

- Facility protocols: evaluating nurse response to client fall
 - Facility protocols refer to the plans and procedures in place to address specific issues that health care institutions face
 - File an incident report for falls and injuries
 - Records of unexpected or unusual incidents that affected the client, employee, volunteer, or visitor in a health care facility
- Facility protocols: actions for reporting a violation of procedure
 - Nurses must understand their role in relation to the development and implementation of facility protocols, including reporting incidents, disaster planning, emergency response, and security plans
 - File an incident report when there is a procedure or treatment error
 - Nurses should be familiar with procedures and policies in order to know what to report
- Coordinating client care: the need for variance report
 - When a client requires treatment other than what is typical or requires a longer length of stay, it is documented as a variance
 - Includes information describing why the variance occurred
 - These reports are apart of the critical pathways and are used to support the implementation of clinical guidelines and protocols
- Facility protocols: planning for discharge following a community disaster
 - During an emergency, nurses help make decisions regarding discharging clients or relocating them so their beds can be used for clients who have higher priority needs
 - Discharge or relocate ambulatory clients requiring minimal care
 - Do not discharge or relocate clients who are unstable or require continuous nursing care and assessment unless they are in imminent danger

Management of care

- Professional responsibilities: teaching about living wills
 - Component of an advance directive
 - A legal document that expresses the clients wishes regarding medical treatment in the event the client becomes incapacitated and is facing end-of-life issues
 - Types of treatments that are often addressed in a living will are those that have the capacity to prolong the life
- Managing client care: using time appropriately
 - Nurses must set and reset priorities in order to meet the needs of multiple clients and to maintain client safety
 - Nurses prioritize care based on evidence obtained using shift reports and other communications with the health care team, a careful review of documents, and accurately collecting client data
 - Prioritize systemic before local, acute before chronic, actual problems before potential problems
- Managing client care: assignment for floating nurse

- Get acquainted with the unit by communicating with the nurse manager and case manager
- Inform manager about your skills and capabilities and ensure the nurse is competent in those areas
- Discuss any concerns or questions before delivering care
- Managing client care: appropriate task to delegate to assistive personnel
 - Nurses are able to delegate activities to other staff when client care workload is beyond what can be handled by one nurse
 - These decisions are based on individual client needs, facility policies and job descriptions, state nurse practice acts, and professional standards
 - AP's can perform:
 - ADLs
 - bathing/grooming/dressing/toileting
 - Ambulating
 - Feeding without swallowing precautions
 - Positioning
 - Routine tasks
 - Bed making
 - Specimen collection
 - Intake and output
 - Vital signs for stable clients
- Airway management: discharge planning for a client who has a tracheostomy
 - The client should keep two extra tracheostomy tubes next to the bed, as well as suction devices and supplemental oxygen
 - Provide methods of communication such as a paper and pen or dry erase board
 - Provide trach care every 8 hours to reduce the risk of infection and skin breakdown
- Coordinating client care: teaching about interdisciplinary conferences
 - A review plan of care to ensure continuity across all disciplines
 - Identify significant information to report
 - Provide an avenue for the initial consultation of a specific issue
- Coordinating client care: promote safety by reporting client findings to a physical therapist
 - Physical therapists work to enhance the quality of client care
 - Aid in facilitating the achievement of positive client outcomes
 - A formal, written plan of care enhances coordination of care between nurses, interprofessional team members, and providers
- Professional responsibilities: teaching about confidentiality
 - Nurses are accountable for protecting the rights of clients
 - Situations that require particular attention include informed consent, refusal of treatment, advanced directive, confidentiality, and information security
 - HIPAA was enacted to protect the confidentiality of health care information and to give the client the right to control the release of information

- Information technology: correct transcription of medication prescription
 - Information to the document includes assessments, medication administration, nursing actions, treatments and responses, and client education
 - For telephone and verbal prescriptions have a second nurse listen to the prescription
 - Repeat it back, making sure to include the medications name, dosage, time, and route of administration
- Coordinating client care: change of shift report
 - Communication regarding the client status and needs is required anytime there is a transfer of care
 - The nurse should provide a change-of-shift report while the nurse hands off the care of the client to another health care professional
 - Used to describe the current health status of the client and inform the next shift of pertinent client care information
- Professional responsibilities: the right of the client to reconsider the procedure
 - Client rights are legal guarantees that clients have with regard to their health care
 - Nurses are accountable for protecting the rights of clients
 - Nurses should ensure clients understand their rights and respect any decisions made regarding their treatment preferences
- Professional responsibilities: identifying ethical principals
 - Standards of what is right or wrong with regard to important social values and norms
 - Ethical principals pertaining to the treatment of clients include autonomy, beneficence, fidelity, justice, nonmaleficence, and veracity
 - Ethical dilemmas are problems for which more than one choice can be made and the choice influenced by the values and beliefs of the decision-makers
- The interprofessional team: recognizing the need for referral to a speech-language pathologist
 - Evaluates and makes recommendations regarding the impact of disorders or injuries on speech, language, and swallowing
 - Responsible for teaching techniques and exercises to improve function
 - Example of when to refer: a client is having difficulty swallowing a regular diet after trauma to the head and neck
- Coordinating client care: roles and responsibilities of the health care team
 - One of the primary roles of nursing is the coordination and management of client care in collaboration with the health care team
 - Collaboration involves discussion of client care issues in making health care decisions, especially for clients who have multiple problems
 - Having a holistic understanding of the client, the client's health care needs, and the health care system
- Professional responsibilities: obtaining consent
 - Informed consent is a legal process by which a client has given written permission for a procedure or treatment to be performed

- Considered to be informed when the client has been provided with and understands all aspects of the procedure
- The nurse's role in the informed consent process is to witness the clients signature on the informed consent form and to ensure that informed consent has been appropriately obtained