

Simple Nursing

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Head to toe assessment



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How to start:

- Introduce yourself.
- Present history.
- Review findings.
- Obtain consent.
- Assess for allergies.
- Obtain informed consent.

Normal range & units

- BP (20/70-120/80)
- Pulse 60-100 bpm
- HR 110 bpm
- Temperature 98.6-99°C
- SpO₂ > 95%



Circulation

- Peripheral pulses
- Carotid: Never check both at the same time
- Radial
- Brachial
- Femoral
- Popliteal
- Dorsalis pedis
- Posterior tibial

Capillary refill

- Should return back down within 3 seconds.

Skin Turgor

- Skin should return within 3 seconds.
- Skin should be even, dry and taut.
- Turgor should be equal in all extremities.



Head / neck

- Malaria? If yes, will still keep?
- Assess consciousness.
- Eyes: PERRLA, colour white, cornea clear and moist, free of any discharge or damage.
- Nerves: Check for ptosis (drooping one eye at a time).
- Mouth: If the oral mucosa pale and moist, free of ulcerations, and free of nodules or lesions? Tongue fissures.
- Skin underneath the nose (nasion) or ear lobe (tragus) reddened?

Chest

- Heart: All R.R. Be Too Busy?
 - A - Aortic
 - R - Pulmonary
 - G - Genu's Points
 - T - Tracheal
 - M - Mediastinum
- Lungs: RR should be even & rhythmic.
- Breasts: Check for lumps, discharge, nipple size or colour.



Abdomen

- Abdominal sounds: You should hear sounds in all four quadrants. Five sounds listen for three minutes. Inspect, palpate, auscultate, percuss, then palpate and assess with action.
 - Normal or hyperactive.
 - Bowel sounds absent or less than normal.



Range of motion in elbow & shoulder joints

- Please note that not all patients reach 0°/0° and 0° are flexion/extension. Please use your school manual and state's practice act.

FUNDAMENTALS: POSITIONING



To allow for comfort and safety, while preventing complications related to the client's condition.

Fowler's position

Inclined 15° to 45°. Client's position inclined in accordance with All-Positioning and Weight Transfer principles.

What are IT?

A position in which the client is seated upright, with the back supported.

Cardiac clients, SSI, or SCI.



Sitter's Position

A prone/supine.

What AM IT?

A position in which the patient lies on his side with his upper leg flexed and drawn in toward the chest, and the upper arm flexed at the elbow.

Indications

Arteriovenous fistulas, peritoneal aspirations, and liver condition in pregnancy.



Prone/face down

"Snick Dose"

What AM IT?

This position involves a supine patient and simply lowering the head of the bed and raising the feet.

Indications

Used to treat hypotension, during gynecological and abdominal trauma-surgeries, and for placement and removal of ventral lines.



Lateral

Can be right or left lateral.

What are IT?

Right lateral means the right side of the patient is facing the bed; left lateral indicates the left side of the patient is facing the bed.

Indications

Spinal cord, nerve, and rectal surgery.



Upright

Most commonly seen in OR.

What are IT?

Patient is sitting due to either back pain, knee surgery, stroke, and hip/knee after support for transfers.

Indications

Gynecological procedures and childbirth.



Supine

This is our basic position.

Supine is considered the most natural "at rest" position.

What are IT?

A position where the patient is flat on their back.

Indications

Used in surgery for abdominal, facial and orthopedic procedures.



Prone/face down

"Snick Dose"

What AM IT?

Patient is in the same position with the head of the bed elevated and the feet lowered.

Indications

Used for surgery on the spine, pelvic fractures in obese patients. It can also be used in treating venous ulcers, edema, and preventing pressure ulcers.

