

K: Neurological/ Neurosurgical

Major Competency Area: **K**
Neurological/Neurosurgical

Competency: **K-1**
Neurological Nursing

Date: January 16, 2017

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- K-1-1** **Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and critical inquiry throughout the nursing process in neurological nursing.**
- K-1-2** **Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology related to illness/trauma of the neurological system including, but not limited to:**
- determinants of normal neurological function
 - neurological impairment, shock
 - neurological illness, trauma and surgery such as:
 - intracranial hemorrhage
 - increased intracranial pressure
 - meningitis
 - multiple sclerosis
 - neurosurgery
 - Parkinson's Disease
 - seizures and epilepsy
 - stroke
 - transient ischemic attack
 - traumatic head injury
- K-1-3** **Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide health teaching and coaching associated with neurological nursing.**
- K-1-4** **Demonstrate knowledge and ability to communicate and collaborate with inter-professional team.**

Major Competency Area: **K**
Neurological/Neurosurgical

Competency: **K-2**
Neurological
Nursing Interventions

Date: January 16, 2017

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-2-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide evidence informed, client centered care in relation to neurological nursing:

- ensure and respect client choices in decision making
- assess, monitor and evaluate neurological vital signs:
 - cranial nerve assessment
 - motor assessment
 - sensory assessment
 - reflex assessment
 - Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)

K-2-2 Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of indications, contraindications and complications associated with neurological and related diagnostic tests and procedures such as:

- computerized tomography (CT)
- CT Angiogram
- electroencephalography (EEG)
- magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
- ultrasonogram (carotid Doppler, transcranial Doppler)
- X-ray
- lumbar puncture
- myelography
- electrocardiography (ECG)
- echocardiogram

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- K-2-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to anticipate and recognize actual or potential immediate or urgent neurological crisis including:**
- abnormal respirations
 - bradycardia
 - cardiac dysrhythmias
 - decreased level of consciousness
 - hypertension
 - hyperthermia
 - hypotension
 - hypothermia
 - tachycardia
 - widening pulse pressure
- K-2-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to recognize signs and symptoms of a life threatening neurological event and implement interventions according to agency policy.**

Major Competency Area: **K**
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Competency: **K-3**
Managing C-Spine

Date: January 16, 2017

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- K-3-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess for spinal injury.**
- K-3-2 Demonstrate knowledge of best practices in cervical spine management and implementation according to agency policy.**
- K-3-3 Demonstrate knowledge of criteria for spinal immobilization and spinal precautions including:**
- neck/back pain with or without nerve involvement
 - history of:
 - degenerative bone disease
 - falls
 - head, neck or facial trauma
 - motor vehicle crash
 - trauma with intoxication, altered mental status or unconsciousness
- K-3-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply and maintain spinal precautions including:**
- application, maintenance and removal of cervical collars (soft, rigid)
 - assist to stabilize spine with manual and/or mechanical traction
 - logrolling
 - thoracic- lumbar- sacral orthosis (TLSO), cervical thoracic orthosis (CTO)
 - maintain proper spinal/body alignment
 - transportation precautions
 - use of spine board/slider board
- K-3-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide nursing care and interventions specific to client with spinal injury including:**
- motor power/sensation/neurovascular status
 - skin care and institute protective measures
 - wounds, drainage tubes
 - nutrition/hydration/elimination
 - intake and output balance
 - casts
 - halo traction, jacket and pin site care, thoracolumbosacral orthosis,
 - comfort measures and pain management

Major Competency Area: **K**
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Competency: **K-4**
**Advanced Neurological
Nursing Interventions**

Date: January 16, 2017

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

K-4-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to care for client requiring detailed observation and interventions according to agency policy.

K-4-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist with and/or provide advanced neurological assessment, monitoring, care and interventions according to agency policy including:

- 12 and 15 lead ECG application and recognition and reporting
- acid-base balance
- pain management
- swallowing assessment
- arterial blood gas recognition and reporting
- chest assessment and physiotherapy
- cognitive functioning assessment
- cranial nerve assessment
- fluid and electrolyte imbalance monitoring
- lumbar drain monitoring
- pressure monitoring
 - central venous pressure monitoring
- spinal assessment
- ventricular and subdural drain monitoring

K-4-3 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to communicate, consult and collaborate with inter-professional team.