Client Needs Categories

The four Client Needs categories included in the CGFNS test plan are: Safe, Effective Care Environment, Health Promotion and Maintenance, Psychosocial Integrity, Physiological Integrity. A description of each category may be found below.

A. Safe, Effective Care Environment: Promoting achievement of client outcomes by providing and directing nursing care that enhances the care delivery setting in order to protect clients and health care personnel. There are two subcategories of this Client Need.

Management of Care: Providing and directing nursing care that enhances the care delivery setting to protect clients and health care personnel. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, advance directives/self-determination/life planning; advocacy; case management; client rights; collaboration with interdisciplinary team; concepts of management; confidentiality/information security; continuum of care; assignment/delegation and supervision; establishing priorities; ethical practice; informed consent; information technology; legal rights and responsibilities; organ donation; performance improvement (quality improvement); and referrals.

Safety and Infection Control: Protecting clients and health care personnel from health and environmental hazards. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, accident/error/injury prevention; emergency response plan; ergonomic principles; handling hazardous and infectious materials; home safety; reporting of incident/event/irregular occurrence/variance; safe use of equipment; security plan; standard precautions/transmission-based precautions/surgical asepsis; and use of restraints/safety devices.

B. Health Promotion and Maintenance: Providing and directing nursing care of the client that incorporates the knowledge of expected growth and development principles; prevention and/or early detection of health problems; and strategies to achieve optimal health. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, aging process; antepartum/intrapartum and newborn care; developmental stages and transitions; health promotion/disease prevention; health screening; high risk behaviors; lifestyle choices; self-care; and techniques of physical assessment.

C. Psychosocial Integrity: Providing and directing nursing care that promotes and supports the emotional, mental and social well-being of the client experiencing stressful events, as well as clients with acute or chronic mental illness. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, abuse/neglect; behavioral interventions; chemical and other dependencies/substance use disorder; coping mechanisms; crisis intervention; cultural awareness/cultural influences on health; end of life care; family dynamics; grief and loss; mental health concepts; religious and spiritual influences on health; sensory/perceptual alterations; stress management; support systems; therapeutic communication; and therapeutic environment.

D. Physiological Integrity: Promoting physical health and wellness by providing care and comfort, reducing client risk potential and managing health alterations. There are four subcategories of this Client Need.

Basic Care and Comfort: Providing comfort and assistance in the performance of activities of daily living. Specific areas of knowledge include: but are not limited to, assistive devices; elimination; mobility/immobility; non-pharmacological comfort interventions; nutritional and oral hydration; personal hygiene; and rest and sleep.

Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies: Providing care related to the administration of medications and parenteral therapies. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, adverse effects/contraindications/side effects/interactions; blood and blood products; central venous access devices; dosage calculation; expected actions/outcomes; medication administration; parenteral/intravenous therapies; pharmacological pain management; and total parenteral nutrition.

Reduction of Risk Potential: Reducing the likelihood that clients will develop complications or health problems related to existing conditions, treatments or procedures. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, changes/abnormalities in vital signs; diagnostic tests; lab values; potential for alterations in body systems; potential for complications of diagnostic tests/treatments/procedures; potential for complications from surgical procedures and health alterations; system-specific assessments; and therapeutic procedures.

Physiologic Adaptation: Managing and providing care for clients with acute, chronic or life-threatening physical health conditions. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, alterations in body systems; fluid and electrolyte imbalances; hemodynamics; illness management; medical emergencies; pathophysiology; and unexpected response to therapies.