

Client Needs Categories

The four Client Needs categories included in the test plan are: Safe, Effective Care Environment, Health Promotion and Maintenance, Psychosocial Integrity, Physiological Integrity. Below are descriptions of the areas of nursing covered by each category.

A. Safe, Effective Care Environment:

Management of Care: providing integrated, cost-effective care to clients by coordinating, supervising and/or collaborating with members of the multidisciplinary health care team. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, advance

directives, advocacy, case management, client rights, concepts of management, confidentiality, continuity of care, continuous quality improvement, delegation, ethical practice, incident/irregular occurrence/variance reports, informed consent, legal responsibilities, organ donation, consultation and referrals, resource management, and supervision.

Safety and Infection Control: protecting clients and health care personnel from environmental hazards. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, accident prevention, disaster planning, error prevention, handling hazardous and infectious materials, medical and surgical asepsis, standard (universal) precautions, other precautions, and use of restraints.

B. Health Promotion and Maintenance:

Assisting client and significant others through the normal, expected stages of growth and development from conception through advanced old age. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, aging process, ante/intra/postpartum and newborn, developmental stages and transitions, expected body image changes, family planning, family systems, and human sexuality. Also includes managing and providing care for clients in need of prevention and early detection of health problems. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, disease prevention, health and wellness, health promotion programs, health screening, immunizations, lifestyle choices, and techniques of physical assessment.

C. Psychosocial Integrity:

Promoting client ability to cope, adapt and/or problem solve situations related to illnesses or stressful events. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, coping mechanisms, counseling techniques, grief and loss, mental health concepts, religious and spiritual influences on health, sensory/perceptual alterations, situational role changes, stress management, support systems, and unexpected body image changes. Also includes managing and providing care for clients with acute or chronic mental illnesses. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, behavioral interventions, chemical dependency, child abuse/neglect, crisis intervention, domestic violence, elder abuse/neglect, psychopathology, sexual abuse, and therapeutic milieu.

D. Physiological Integrity:

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: managing and providing care related to the administration of medications and parenteral therapies. Specific areas of knowledge include, but are not limited to, administration of blood and blood products, central venous access devices, chemotherapy, expected effects, intravenous therapy, medication administration, parenteral fluids, pharmacological agents and actions, side effects, total parenteral nutrition, and untoward effects.

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, alterations in body systems, diagnostic tests, lab values, pathophysiology, potential complications of diagnostic tests, procedures, surgery and health alterations, and therapeutic procedures.

Physiologic Adaptation: managing and providing care to 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, infectious diseases, medical emergencies, pathophysiology, radiation therapy, respiratory care and unexpected response to therapies.

References

National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2004). NCLEX-RN® examination test plan. Chicago: NCSBN.

Other than the referenced test plan, the National Council takes no position on the accuracy of the content provided herein by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.