YOUR GUIDE TO

Fundamentals of Nursing Care

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MAKE THE CONNECTIONS.

Connection Boxes show you how to apply theory to practice in key areas:
- Clinical
- A&P
- Patient Teaching
- Real-World Nursing
- People & Places
- Knowledge
- Lab/Diagnosis
- Supervision/Delegation

PREPARE FOR THE REAL WORLD OF NURSING PRACTICE.

Post Conference boxes summarize what you’ve learned and describe the possible reactions of both patient and nurse.

UPDATED! Cultural & religious content prepare you to interact effectively with your patients.

Laboratory and Diagnostic Connection

Testing to Determine if a Wound is Infected

In order to effectively treat an infected wound, you must identify the microorganism that is causing the infection and determine which antibiotics will be effective against the microorganism and kill it. This test is known as a wound culture and sensitivity (C&S). Some microorganisms have mutated so that they are no longer sensitive to certain antibiotics. These strains are labeled as resistant to the specific antibiotic. After the offending microorganism is identified, tiny disks, each saturated with a different antibiotic, are placed on the agar plate to observe whether or not the antibiotic kills the microorganism. If the antibiotic successfully kills the specific microorganism, it will form a clear circle of growth around the center of the disk containing antibiotic.

Clinitical Connection

Assessment box: You are assigned to care for a 74-year-old male patient with a stage III pressure ulcer on his coccyx that is infected with methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). You will need to irrigate the ulcer and apply a wound-dressing dressing. You will also need to take the proper transmission-based precautions for MRSA in a wound.

To view the transmission precautions in Chapter 14. You also need to be able to measure the pressure ulcer and describe its appearance when you perform the dressing change. Finally, you must also know how to perform a wound-dressing dressing change, including how to loosely pack sterile gauze 4 x 4 into the wound. You will need to review sterile technique so that, when you change the dressing, you do not further contaminate the wound, causing further infection.

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Step Conference

After your clinical experience, you have an opportunity to evaluate the care you gave. As you discussed your day with your classmates, you realized how much you had learned and accomplished during these two clinical days. You were able to maintain contract precautions as you cared for your patient with MRSA. You observed your patient for any reactions to the vancomycin he was taking to treat the MRSA. You changed the dressing very carefully, removing the old dressing and measuring the wound. You were able to identify granulation tissue and the location of infected tissue. Although it took some practice, you were able to fluft the wet gauze 4 x 4 and place them inside the wound without contaminating it, then you covered the wound with damp 4 x 4, and covered the entire area with an acrylic dressing pad that you taped in place. Your instructor was very pleased with your accurate and detailed documentation of the procedure.

Expanded A greater focus on safe & effective nursing care throughout to help ensure patient safety.
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