

The Nursing BAG

- The **Nursing Bag** must have the basic equipment, with supplemental items for specific procedures carried in either the bag or separate containers. Basically item may include:
- ☐ **Paper towels** are used to dry hands and create an area to protect the family's environment from the "dirty" outside of the bag
 - ☐ **Soap in container (or cleansing agent, hand sanitizer)** and to protect the bag from environment microorganisms and/or allergens.
 - ☐ **Personal Protecting Equipment (PPE)** for Infection Control (Gloves, Mask, etc)
 - ☐ **Aprons** (optional and are usually disposable)
 - ☐ **Antiseptic wipes** are used as a disinfectant for cleaning items (such as BP cuff), prior to returning items to the nursing bag.
 - ☐ **Paper or plastic bags** are used for disposal of waste materials and retrieved disposal by the contracted company.
 - ☐ **Thermometers** with disposable sheaths.
 - ☐ **Otoscope, ophthalmoscope, tongue blades** for assessing head and neck.
 - ☐ **Sphygmomanometer** with several sized cuffs for measuring the blood pressure of clients of varying age and size.
 - ☐ **Stethoscope with bell and diaphragm** for measuring blood pressure and auscultation of respiratory, circulatory and other appropriate systems.
 - ☐ **Plastic-coated or metal tape measure** for assessment of heart, chest and length measurements in children and assessment of limbs and joints.
 - ☐ **Penlight** for assessing presence of light reflex in eyes, mouth and nasopharynx, in special instances, transillumination.

SETTING UP

The **nursing bag** is placed on a paper towel, bed pad, or Cxux on a flat, open and clean as possible surface. It should be near a sink and kept out of the reach of children and pets. The outside of the bag is considered unclean. The soap container and several extra paper towels are then removed and placed on the work area. Use correct **Hand washing Technique**. Clean under nails daily. Keep milks trimmed closely as they harbor bacteria. After the hands are washed, set waterless cleanser out on barrier, any equipment that is necessary for providing care is removed from the bag. Special procedure sets are set up near client, and appropriate medical surgical aseptic techniques are instituted. Any time that additional equipment is needed from the nursing bag, hands must be washed again; thus, it is wise to have extra paper towels available on the clean work area in case they are needed.

Assessment and special procedure supplies are placed on the clean or sterile field work areas. After use, they are washed with soap and water, dried, wiped with disinfectant such as alcohol, and returned to the nursing bag. Equipment in the home is cleaned, disinfected and stored in closed, protected containers for future use. Materials that can be disinfected by soaking in antiseptic solution or boiled for at least 20 minutes in water can be processed in the home. All syringes and needles are discarded in the contaminated supplies box (Sharp Box). Equipment such as stethoscopes, tape measures, soap containers, are recycled for multi-patient use. Before returning them to the bag, the items are cleaned, and if possible, washed and antiseptic wipes. It is recommended that very few weeks, the cuff is washed in warm soapy water and dried. At this time the Velcro closure is cleaned of any debris such as lint.

Universal Precautions

- Include blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and tissues from all patients.
1.  Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
 2.  Wear gloves when in contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and tissues from all patients.
 3.  Wear a mask and gown when in contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and tissues from all patients.
 4.  Dispose of waste properly in a leak-proof container.
 5.  Clean and disinfect surfaces after contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, and tissues from all patients.

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