

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 includes:

- ☐ **Paper towels** are used to dry hands and create an area to protect the family's environment from the "dirty" outside of the bag and to protect the bag from environment microorganisms and/or allergens.
- ☐ **Soap in container (or cleansing agent, hand sanitizer).** ☐ **Aprons** (optional and are usually disposable)
- ☐ **Personal Protecting Equipment (PPE)** for Infection Control (Gloves, Mask, etc)
- ☐ **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 or 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, trasillumination.

SETTING UP

The **nursing bag** is placed on a paper towel, bed pad, or Chux 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 nails 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 or 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 wiped with alcohol or other disinfectant. The syphomanometer is cleaned with an 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 cleansed of any debris such as lint.

Universal Precautions

Includes blood, body substances containing visible blood, non-intact skin, and mucous membranes



1. Hands should be washed **BEFORE** and **AFTER** patient care.



2. Gloves should be worn when likely to touch blood, and other potentially infectious materials, non-intact skin, and/or mucous membranes. They should also be worn when performing vascular access procedures and when handling contaminated items or surfaces.



3. A gown should be worn when clothing is likely to become soiled.



4. A mask and/or protective eyewear should be worn when splashing is likely.



5. Always place used needles, syringes, and/or sharps into a designated disposal container. **DO NOT BREAK, BEND OR RECAP NEEDLES.**