



**ACTIVITIES RANK ORDERED BY Activities Rank Ordered by Average Total
Group Importance***
**2014 RN PRACTICE ANALYSIS: LINKING THE NCLEX-RN® EXAMINATION TO
PRACTICE, U.S. AND CANADA JANUARY 2015
(NCSBN RESEARCH BRIEF)
(Effective April 2016)**

1. Apply principles of infection control (e.g., hand hygiene, surgical asepsis, isolation, sterile technique, universal/standard precautions)
2. Ensure proper identification of client when providing care
3. Prepare and administer medications, using rights of medication administration
4. Provide care within the legal scope of practice
5. Protect client from injury (e.g., falls, electrical hazards)
6. Evaluate appropriateness and accuracy of medication order for client
7. Review pertinent data prior to medication administration (e.g., contraindications, lab results, allergies, potential interactions)
8. Perform emergency care procedures (e.g., cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, respiratory support, automated external defibrillator)
9. Assess and respond to changes in client vital signs
10. Handle and maintain medication in a safe and controlled environment
11. Recognize signs and symptoms of complications and intervene appropriately when providing client care
12. Perform calculations needed for medication administration
13. Titrate dosage of medication based on assessment and ordered parameter (e.g., giving insulin according to blood glucose levels, titrating medication to maintain a specific blood pressure)
14. Maintain client confidentiality and privacy
15. Practice in a manner consistent with a code of ethics for registered nurses
16. Recognize trends and changes in client condition and intervene as needed
17. Verify appropriateness and/or accuracy of a treatment order
18. Assess client for allergies and intervene as needed (e.g., food, latex, environmental allergies)

19. Evaluate client response to medication (e.g., therapeutic effects, side effects, adverse reactions)
20. Prioritize the delivery of client care
21. Administer blood products and evaluate client response
22. Administer controlled substances within regulatory guidelines (e.g., witness, waste)
23. Monitor intravenous infusion and maintain site (e.g., central, PICC, epidural and venous access devices)
24. Advocate for client rights and needs
25. Perform skin assessment and implement measures to maintain skin integrity and prevent skin breakdown (e.g., turning, repositioning, pressure-relieving support surfaces)
26. Provide and receive hand off of care (report) on assigned clients
27. Perform focused assessment
28. Perform diagnostic testing (e.g., electrocardiogram, oxygen saturation, glucose monitoring)
29. Manage the care of a client with impaired ventilation/oxygenation
30. Perform comprehensive health assessment
31. Receive and/or transcribe health care provider orders
32. Follow procedures for handling biohazardous and hazardous materials
33. Organize workload to manage time effectively
34. Assess client need for pain management
35. Collaborate with interprofessional team members when providing client care (e.g., language interpreter, health care professionals)
36. Report unsafe practice of health care personnel and intervene as appropriate (e.g., substance abuse, improper care, staffing practices)
37. Recognize limitations of self and others and seek assistance
38. Acknowledge and document practice error (e.g., incident report for medication error)
39. Facilitate appropriate and safe use of equipment
40. Verify that the client received appropriate procedure education and consents to care and procedures
41. Use ergonomic principles when providing care (e.g., safe patient handling, proper lifting)
42. Educate client about medications
43. Identify pathophysiology related to an acute or chronic condition (e.g., signs and symptoms)
44. Report client conditions as required by law (e.g., abuse/neglect, communicable disease)
45. Evaluate responses to procedures and treatments
46. Administer pharmacological measures for pain management
47. Manage the care of the client with a fluid and electrolyte imbalance
48. Manage the care of a client with alteration in hemodynamics, tissue perfusion and homeostasis (e.g., cerebral, cardiac, peripheral)
49. Use precautions to prevent injury and/or complications associated with a procedure or diagnosis

50. Monitor the results of diagnostic testing and intervene as needed
51. Assess the potential for violence and use safety precautions (e.g., suicide, homicide, self-destructive behavior)
52. Evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment regimen for a client with an acute or chronic diagnosis
53. Educate client and staff regarding infection control measures
54. Perform procedures necessary to safely admit, transfer or discharge a client
55. Assess client for abuse or neglect and intervene as appropriate
56. Access venous access devices, including tunneled, implanted and central lines
57. Evaluate client intake and output and intervene as needed
58. Manage client during and following a procedure with moderate sedation
59. Follow security plan and procedures (e.g., newborn nursery security, violence, controlled access)
60. Educate client regarding an acute or chronic condition
61. Monitor and care for clients on a ventilator
62. Recognize non-verbal cues to physical and /or psychological stressors
63. Provide care and education for the adult client ages 18 through 64 years
64. Follow requirements for use of restraints and/or safety device (e.g., least restrictive restraints, timed client monitoring)
65. Perform suctioning (e.g., oral, nasopharyngeal, endotracheal, tracheal)
66. Use therapeutic communication techniques to provide client support
67. Provide a therapeutic environment
68. Manage the care of a client on telemetry
69. Utilize valid resources to enhance the care provided to a client (e.g., evidenced-based research, information technology, policies and procedures)
70. Participate in medication reconciliation process
71. Apply and maintain devices used to promote venous return (e.g., anti-embolic stockings, sequential compression devices)
72. Provide care and education for the adult client ages 65 through 85 years and over
73. Educate client about treatments and procedures
74. Assess client in coping with life changes and provide support (e.g., palliative, amputation, new diagnosis)
75. Provide education to clients and staff about client rights and responsibilities
76. Implement emergency response plans (e.g., internal/external disaster, bomb threat, com)
77. Insert, maintain or remove a peripheral intravenous line
78. Assist client to compensate for a physical or sensory impairment (e.g., assistive devices, positioning, compensatory techniques)
79. Assess and manage client with an alteration in elimination (e.g., bowel, urinary)

80. Provide client nutrition through continuous or intermittent tube feedings
81. Manage the care of a client with a pacing device (e.g., pacemaker, vagus nerve stimulator)
82. Provide postoperative care
83. Monitor and maintain devices and equipment used for drainage (e.g. surgical wound drains, chest tube suction, negative pressure wound therapy)
84. Implement measures to promote circulation (e.g., active or passive range of motion, positioning and mobilization)
85. Recognize ethical dilemmas and take appropriate action
86. Recognize the need for referrals and obtain necessary orders
87. Perform wound care or dressing change
88. Monitor and maintain arterial lines
89. Use approved abbreviations and standard terminology when documenting care
90. Provide end of life care and education to clients
91. Educate client on safety issues (e.g., home, school, transportation)
92. Assess client's readiness to learn, learning preferences and barriers to learning
93. Manage the care of a client receiving hemodialysis
94. Provide preoperative and postoperative education
95. Assess client for drug/alcohol dependencies, withdrawal, or toxicities and intervene as appropriate
96. Provide care and education for acute and chronic psychosocial health issues (e.g., addictions/dependencies, depression, dementia, eating disorders)
97. Insert, maintain or remove a urinary catheter
98. Administer parenteral nutrition and evaluate client response (i.e., TPN)
99. Assign and supervise care provided by others (e.g., LPN/VN, assistive personnel, other RNs)
100. Provide pulmonary hygiene (e.g., chest physiotherapy, incentive spirometry)
101. Obtain blood specimens peripherally or through central line
102. Assess and intervene in client performance of activities of daily living
103. Obtain specimens other than blood for diagnostic testing (e.g., wound, stool, urine)
104. Assess client ability to manage care in home environment and plan care accordingly (e.g., equipment, community resources)
105. Assist with invasive procedures (e.g., central line, thoracentesis, bronchoscopy)
106. Incorporate behavioral management techniques when caring for a client (e.g., positive reinforcement, setting limits, de-escalation techniques)
107. Maintain optimal temperature of client (e.g., cooling and/or warming blanket)
108. Integrate advance directives into client plan of care

109. Manage the client's nutritional intake (e.g., adjust diet, monitor height and weight)
110. Assess psychosocial, spiritual and occupational factors affecting care, and plan interventions
111. Provide information for prevention and treatment of high risk health behaviors (e.g., smoking cessation, safe sexual practice, needle exchange)
112. Provide care for a client experiencing visual, auditory or cognitive distortions (e.g. hallucinations)
113. Initiate, evaluate, and update plan of care (e.g., care map, clinical pathway)
114. Perform hemodialysis or continuous renal replacement therapy
115. Provide ostomy care and education (e.g., tracheal, enteral)
116. Provide preoperative care
117. Incorporate client cultural practice and beliefs when planning and providing care
118. Provide information about health promotion and maintenance recommendations (e.g., physician visits, immunizations)
119. Provide nonpharmacological comfort measures (e.g., light dimming, warm blanket)
120. Assess family dynamics to determine plan of care (e.g., structure, bonding, communication, boundaries, coping mechanisms)
121. Insert, maintain or remove a gastric tube
122. Participate in performance improvement/quality improvement process
123. Perform targeted screening assessments (e.g., vision, nutrition)
124. Perform and manage care of client receiving peritoneal dialysis
125. Assess client need for sleep/rest and intervene as needed
126. Manage conflict among clients and health care staff
127. Provide cost effective care
128. Provide care and education for the newborn less than 1 month old through the infant or toddler client through 2 years
129. Assess and teach clients about health risks based on family, population, and/or community characteristics
130. Apply, maintain or remove orthopedic devices (e.g., traction, splints, braces, casts)
131. Provide care and education for the preschool, school age and adolescent client ages 3 through 17 years
132. Provide prenatal care and education
133. Perform irrigations (e.g., of bladder, ear, eye)
134. Provide post-partum care and education
135. Perform post-mortem care
136. Provide care and education to a client in labor or antepartum client
137. Implement and monitor phototherapy
138. Plan and/or participate in community health education
139. Recognize complementary therapies and identify potential contraindications (e.g., aromatherapy, acupressure, supplements)