NURSING BAG TECHNIQUE

POLICY

The High Peaks Hospice & Palliative Care, Inc. (HPHPC) nurses who visit and take equipment from patient to patient will carry this equipment in some type of impervious material nursing bag. This bag will be maintained according to nursing bag protocol.

PROCEDURE

1. Nursing bag protocol:
   A. The nursing bag will be cleaned based on principles of medical asepsis every 3 months.
   B. Soap and water or intermediate level disinfectants may be used to clean the inside and outside surfaces of the nursing bag.
   C. Supplies and stock should be rotated and expiration dates checked every 4 weeks.
   D. Re-usable equipment must be cleaned according to the principles of medical asepsis after any exposure to possible contaminations from blood/body pathogens or soiled in any way.
   E. The nursing bag will be kept on a clean surface in the nurse’s car. Nursing bags should never be placed on the floor of any vehicle.
   F. The nurse will always wash her hands before entering the nursing bag.

2. Utilization of the nursing bag in the home is as follows:
   A. Place the bag in a clean area, never on the floor or on stuffed furniture. Placement on newspaper or other barrier is preferable. Always keep your bag in sight.
   B. Select an appropriate container such as a plastic bag or a sturdy paper bag for disposal of contaminated supplies before you begin.
   C. Open the nursing bag and remove paper towel. Open the towel and place on the work area.
   D. Remove soap and paper towels from the bag and place on the opened towel. Take equipment to the sink and wash your hands according to Handwashing Procedure.
   E. Return to work area and open nursing bag. Remove all equipment needed to give care in the home. Place the equipment on a barrier such as a clean paper towel.
   F. Proceed with the visit. Discard any soiled supplies or equipment into the receptacle you have set aside.
G. If, during the visit, additional articles are needed from the bag the nurse must wash her hands before opening the bag.

H. All equipment used must be cleaned properly. Wipe scissors, thermometers, stethoscope bell, eartips with separate alcohol swab. Any equipment that should become grossly contaminated by dirt or blood/body fluids should be carefully and vigorously cleaned using friction and hot soapy water and dried to the best of the nurse's ability. Alcohol may be used before placing equipment in nursing bag. Any equipment that cannot be satisfactorily cleaned in the patient's home should be discarded.

I. Wash hands and return equipment to the nursing bag. Close bag and leave in a clean area until you are ready to leave.

Also see Clinical Policy: “Use of Cleaning Agent” CP271

Nursing Bag Supply List

- Antibacterial Soap in Tube or Bottle
- Paper Towels
- Disposable aprons/gowns/goggles
- Surgical/bandage Scissors
- Latex Gloves- Sterile and Non-sterile
- Thermometers (and sheaths if necessary)
- Sterile Dressings
- Adhesive Tape
- Paper Tape
- Alcohol Wipes
- Gauze Bandages
- Bandaids
- Pen Light
- Vaseline
- Stethoscope
- Sphygmomanometer
- Spill Kit

Contents:
1. small container of bleach (use 1:10 solution)
2. roll of paper towels
3. plastic bags

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