

CRITICAL THINKING DAY

STEP 1

1. Listen to report and select one patient. Your group will work collaboratively (i.e. will share the work with the same patient). OK to ask charge and or RNs for suggestions for complex patients from which to choose.
2. Obtain current information from the computer and hard chart.
3. Medications: List on the med sheet every med ordered.
4. Read the patient's history and physical, including previous surgeries, medical history, radiologic interventions, and medications taken prior to admission. (OK to make one copy of ONE H & P report. Cut off ALL confidential information before you exit the nurses station. Have a partner check it before you leave the station.) NOTE: if you cannot find an H & P, ask instructor. Instructor can access H & P on computer in an area students do not have access.
5. Diagnostic tests: List on the lab template the labs (trend if enough data). Note the results of Xrays, scans, or other other diagnostics. Make handwritten notes for yourself, prn (i.e., do not copy progress notes).
6. Read the physician progress notes in hard chart. Make handwritten notes for yourself, prn (i.e., do not copy progress notes).
7. Read other reports in the computer and/or hard chart, such as Care Plan (KBC), Care Coordinator notes, notes from other disciplines (physical therapy, wound/ostomy nurse, dietician, etc.). Make handwritten notes for yourself prn (i.e., do not copy progress notes).
8. What information is important for (or pertinent to) this patient?
9. Predict complication(s).
10. What are you on alert for today with this patient?
11. What are the important assessments to make?
12. What complications may occur?
13. What interventions will prevent complications?
14. Discuss which information will have an impact on the patient's recovery from surgery or other medical procedure, if such is planned or possible.

15. Describe state of fluid balance; include IV solution and rationale.

16. Describe safety issues.

17. Labs/diagnostics/procedures scheduled for today:

- a. How labs relate to nursing care.
- b. How diagnostics relate to nursing care
- c. How procedures relate to nursing care

18. Dressing changes, prn:

- a. Describe dressing change.
- b. Assess wound.

STEP 2:

1. Visit the client and perform a quick, 2 minute assessment of the client and the environment.

STEP 3:

1. What are the primary assessments/data collection that should be completed first for the client? Why?

2. What nursing interventions need to be carried out for the client?

3. What interventions will you do first?

4. Which of the above interventions can be delegated and to whom? Why?

5. What information will be given to the person to whom the task is delegated and what information will be collected after the task is finished?

STEP 4

1. Medications: fill out med sheet. Time to be administered. Teaching that needs to be done relative to the medication. Any special instructions regarding administration of this medication.
2. Which medication for each client is most important to give on time?
3. Which medication can be given toward the end of the window of time and still be given “at the right time” without adverse effects?
4. What other medications are prescribed for the client that were administered on the previous shift or will be administered on the next shift?
5. How will those medications affect the client assessments and the care you will be giving this shift?

STEP 5

1. Labs: fill out lab sheet. Time to be measured. Teaching that needs to be done relative to the labs. Any special instructions regarding these labs.
2. Which lab is most important to monitor?
3. What will the diagnostic measure? Teaching that needs to be done relative to the diagnostics. Any special instructions regarding these diagnostics.
4. What other labs or diagnostics are prescribed for the client that were completed on the previous shift or will be completed on the next shift?
5. How will those labs/diagnostics affect the client assessments and the care you will be giving this shift?

STEP 6

1. Are there any cultural, religious, or spiritual aspects of the care of this patient you need to be aware of? If so, describe their beliefs and preferences and how you plan to address them.

REFLECT:

As a result of this activity, I have learned how to:

This activity gave me insights into collaborating with others because:

This activity shows that I have more to learn about:

If I completed a similar activity in the future, I would do _____ differently. I would do _____ the same.