



Critical Care Nurse Skills Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

In order to provide suitable assignments for you, this checklist is intended as a method of assessing your professional proficiency. Please rate your skill level as accurately as possible by placing a **check** (✓) in the appropriate box.

- 1 = No experience; Theory/observed only
- 2 = Limited competency; < 5 times per year; Needs supervision
- 3 = Acceptable competency; > 5 times per year
- 4 = Competent; Performs on a daily or weekly basis; Proficient

Skill Level	1	2	3	4
Cardiovascular				
Assessment				
Abnormal heart sounds/murmurs				
Auscultation (rate, rhythm)				
Blood pressure / non-invasive				
Doppler				
Pulses/circulation checks				
Interpretation of lab results				
Cardiac enzymes & isoenzymes				
Coagulation studies				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Intra-aortic balloon pump				
Hemodynamic monitoring				
Cardiac index				
Cardiac output				
CVP monitoring				
Femoral artery sheath removal				
MAP				
PA/Swan-Ganz				
PCW pressure				
PVR				
Radial a-line				
SVO2				
SVR				
Monitoring				
12 lead EKG interpretation				
Arrhythmia interpretation				
Rhythm strip assessment				
Set up and run 12 lead EKG				
Pacemaker				
External				
Permanent/Temporary				
Transthoracic (epicardial)				

Skill Level	1	2	3	4
Cardiovascular cont...				
Assisting with:				
Arterial line insertion				
Central line insertion				
Open chest emergency				
PA catheter/Swan-Ganz insertion				
Pericardiocentesis				
Transesophageal echocardiogram				
Automatic internal cardioverter defib				
Cardioversion				
CAVH-D				
Care of the patient with:				
Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair				
Acute MI				
Cardiac arrest				
Cardiac tamponade				
Congestive heart failure (CHF)				
EP study & ablation				
Heart transplant				
Immediate post open-heart surgery				
Infective endocarditis				
Myocardial contusion				
Pericarditis				
Post AICD insertion				
Post atherectomy (DCA)				
Post commissurotomy				
Valve repair				
Valve replacement				
Post intercoronary stent placement				
Post percut. balloon valvuloplasty				
Post rotoblade				
Pre/post angioplasty				
Pre/post cardiac catheter				

Cardiovascular cont...				
Medications				
Amiodarone (Cardarone)				
Atropine				
Bicarbonate				
Bretylium (Bretlyol)				
Digoxin (Lanoxin)				
Diltiazem (Cardizem)				
Dobutamine (Dobutrex)				
Dopamine (Intropin)				
Epinephrine (Adrenalin)				
Esmolol (Brevibloc)				
Inocor (Amrinone)				
Lidocaine (Xylocaine)				
Metoprolol (Lopressor)				
Nipride (Nitroprusside)				
Nitroglycerine (Tridil)				
Procainamide (Pronestyl)				
Retepase recombinant (Retavase)				
Streptokinase				
TPA (Alteplase)				
Verapamil (Calan, Isoptin, Verelan)				
Pulmonary				
Assessment: adventitious breath sounds				
Assessment: rate and work of breathing				
Interpretation of lab results - blood gas				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Air leak troubleshooting				
Mediastinal chest tube removal				
Pleural chest tube removal				
Airway management devices				
Endotracheal tube/suctioning				
Extubation				
Nasal airway/suctioning				
Oximetry				
Sputum specimen collection				
Tracheostomy/suctioning				
Assist with:				
Bronchoscopy				
Chest tube insertion				
Emergency tracheostomy				
Thoracentesis				
O2 therapy & med delivery systems				
Ambu bag and mask				
ET tube				
Face mask				
Nasal cannula				
Portable O2 tank				
Trach collar				

Pulmonary cont...				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Establishing an airway				
Assist with intubation				
Oral airway insertion				
Identification for respiratory compl.				
Aspiration				
Laryngospasm				
Tension pneumothorax				
Use of Pleurevac drainage				
Use of Thoraclex drainage				
Use of water seal drainage				
Ventilator management				
External CPAP				
High frequency jet ventilation				
IMV				
PEEP				
Pressure support				
Weaning modes & T-Piece wean				
Care of the patient with:				
Acute pneumonia				
ARDS				
Chest trauma				
COPD				
Cor pulmonale				
Fresh tracheostomy				
Lobectomy				
Lung transplant				
Near drowning				
Pneumectomy				
Pulmonary edema/hypertension				
Pulmonary embolism				
Status asthmatics				
Thoracotomy				
Tuberculosis				
Medications				
Alupent (metaproterenol)				
Aminophylline (theophylline)				
Bronkosol (Isoetharine hydrochloride)				
Corticosteroids				
Ventolin (Albuterol)				
Neurological				
Assessment:				
Cranial nerves				
Glasgow coma scale				
Level of consciousness				
Pathologic reflexes				
Reflex/motor deficits				
Visual or communication deficits				

Neurological cont...

Equipment usage & procedure				
Assist with lumbar puncture				
Halo traction/cervical tongs				
Intracranial pressure monitoring				
Nerve stimulators				
Rotating bed				
Seizure precautions				
Spinal precautions				
Stryker frame				
Use of hyper/hypothermia blanket				
Care of the patient with:				
Aneurysm precautions				
Basal skull fracture				
Closed head injury				
Coma				
CVA				
DTs				
Encephalitis				
Externalized VP shunts				
Increased ICP				
Laminectomy				
Meningitis				
Metastatic tumor				
Intracranial tumor resection				
Multiple sclerosis				
Post craniotomy				
Spinal cord injury				
Ventriculostomy				
Medications				
Barbiturate induced coma				
Decadron (Dexamethasone)				
Dilantin (Phenytoin)				
Epidural administration				
Phenobarbital				
Valium (Diazepam)				

Gastrointestinal

Assessment of abdominal/bowel sounds				
Assessment of nutritional data				
Interpretation of lab results				
Serum ammonia				
Serum amylase				
LFTs				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Administration of tube feeding				
Balloon tamponade				
Feeding pump				
Flexible feeding tube				
Gravity feeding				

Gastrointestinal cont...

Equipment usage & procedure				
Iced saline lavage				
Management of gastrostomy tube				
Management of jejunostomy tube				
Management of T-tube				
Management of TPN and lipids admin				
Management of PPN				
Placement of nasogastric tube				
Salem sump to suction				
Care of the patient with:				
Blunt trauma				
Bowel obstruction				
Colostomy				
ERCP				
Esophageal bleeding				
GI bleeding				
GI surgery				
Hepatitis				
Ileostomy				
Inflammatory bowel disease				
Liver failure				
Liver transplant				
Pancreatitis				
Paralytic ileus				
Penetrating trauma				
Medications				
AqualMephyton (Vitamin K)				
Inderal (Propranolol)				
Kayexelate				
Lactulose (Cephulac)				
Pitressin (Vasopressin)				

Renal / Genitourinary

Assessment of A-V fistula				
Assessment of A-V shunt				
Assessment of fluid status				
Interpretation of lab results				
BUN				
Creatinine				
Serum electrolytes				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Bladder irrigation				
Insertion & care of:				
Straight catheter				
Foley catheter				
3-way Foley				
Female				
Male				
Supra-pubic				

Renal / Genitourinary cont...				
Care of the patient with:				
Acute renal failure				
CAVH dialysis				
Hemodialysis				
Nephrectomy				
Peritoneal dialysis				
Renal rejection syndrome				
Renal transplant				
TURP				
Urinary diversion				
Urinary tract infection				
Endocrine / Metabolic				
Interpretation of lab results				
Blood glucose				
Thyroid studies				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Blood glucose measuring devices				
Blood glucose monitoring				
Performing finger stick				
Care of the patient with:				
Diabetes mellitus				
Diabetic ketoacidosis				
Disorders of adrenal gland				
Disorders of pituitary gland				
Drug overdose				
Hyperthyroidism (Grave's disease)				
Hypothyroidism				
Insulin shock				
Thyroidectomy				
Medication - Insulin pump				
Wound Management				
Assessment of:				
Skin for impending breakdown				
Stasis ulcers				
Surgical wound healing				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Air fluidized, low air loss beds				
Sterile dressing changes				
Wound care/irrigations				
Care of the patient with:				
Burns/pressure sores				
Staged decubitus ulcers				
Surgical wounds with drain(s)				
Traumatic wounds				
Phlebotomy / IV Therapy				
Equipment usage & procedure				
Administration of blood & products				

Phlebotomy / IV Therapy cont...				
Cryoprecipitate				
Packed red blood cells				
Plasma/albumin				
Whole blood				
Drawing blood from central line				
Drawing venous blood				
Starting IVs				
Angiocath				
Butterfly				
Heparin lock				
Care of the patient with:				
Central line/catheter/dressing				
Broviac				
Groshong				
Hickman				
Portacath				
Quinton				
Peripheral line/dressing				
Pain Management				
Assessment of pain level/tolerance				
Care of the patient with:				
Epidural anesthesia/analgesia				
IV conscious sedation				
Patient controlled analgesia				
Miscellaneous				
Care of the patient with:				
Anaphylactic shock				
DIC				
Hypovolemic shock				
Multi-system organ failure				
Organ/tissue donation				
Septic shock				
Age Specific Practice Criteria				
Newborn/Neonate (birth - 30 days)				
Infant (30 days - 1 year)				
Toddler (1 - 3 years)				
Preschooler (3 - 5 years)				
School age children (5 - 12 years)				
Adolescents (12 - 18 years)				
Young adults (18 - 39 years)				
Middle adults (39 - 64 years)				
Older adults (64+ years)				
EMR				
Epic				
Cerner				
Eclipsys				
McKesson				

EMR cont...				
Meditech				
Other Computerized System				
Computerized Physician Order Entry				
Bar Coding for Medication Administration				

Please list any areas of expertise below:

I hereby certify that ALL information I have provided to Wellspring Nurse Source on this skills checklist is true and accurate. I understand and acknowledge that any misrepresentation or omission may result in disqualification from employment and/or immediate termination.

Nurse Signature: _____ Date: _____