

Suppositories

NURSE DELEGATION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL NURSING TASK

General delegated tasks are those tasks that the Nurse identifies as general in nature and once learned can be performed for all residents. The Caregiver to whom the task is delegated must demonstrate ability to perform the task as instructed by the Nurse. By signing this delegation form, the Caregiver being delegated agrees to perform the task as taught. The nurse will review Caregiver performance annually or as needed to assure continued competency in performance of the task.

General Task: Administration of Suppositories

Purpose:

- To administer medications into the rectum
- To administer medications into the vagina
- To alleviate pain or discomfort

Supplies Needed

1. Medication (rectal or vaginal suppository) as prescribed by physician
2. Water-soluble lubricant
3. Soap and warm water, basin, tissues, washcloth, and towel
4. Disposable non-sterile gloves and plastic trash bag
5. Hand-washing solution

Procedures/Steps to Follow to Perform the Task

• **Rectal Suppositories**

1. Explain the procedure to the resident.
2. Verify the medication with the patient's MAR.
3. Assemble the equipment at a convenient work area.
4. Put on gloves.
5. Position the resident on the bed on his/her left side.
6. Remove the wrapper from the suppository, and lubricate it.
7. Separate the buttocks.
8. Gently insert the suppository with the index finger of a gloved hand, until it is beyond the internal sphincter.
9. Gently squeeze the resident's buttocks together until the urge to expel the suppository has passed.
10. Cleanse the anal area with soap and water and dry.
11. Provide resident comfort measures.
12. Clean and replace the equipment. Discard disposable items and gloves in plastic trash bag.
13. Wash hands with hand-washing solution.

• **Vaginal Suppositories**

1. Explain the procedure to the resident.
2. Verify the medication with the resident's MAR.
3. Put on gloves.
4. Position the resident in a supine position, with the knees flexed and the legs separated.
5. Perform perineal care as needed. Drape the resident for privacy.
6. Gently separate the resident's labia, and insert the vaginal suppository as far into the vagina as it can be inserted.
7. Provide resident comfort measures.
8. Discard disposable items and gloves in plastic trash bag.
9. Wash hands with hand-washing solution.



Outcomes

- Potential Risks/Side Effects and Appropriate Actions to Deal with them (include what to observe for and report, what to do, and whom to contact)

- Signature of CAREGIVER

Signature of Delegating Nurse

Delegation Competency
Review Date

[illegible]