

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: Care of the Resident with Visual Impairment

Purpose:

- To maximize visual function
- To encourage the optimal level of independence
- To minimize risk of falls

Supplies Needed

- 1. Eye glasses
- 2. Appropriate lighting (General note: Provide dim lighting for residents after cataract removal. Provide average lighting for residents with glaucoma. Provide bright lighting for residents with peripheral cataracts.)
- 3. Soap, water, soft cloth
- 4. Hand-washing solution or Hand Sanitizer if no body fluids are present

Procedures/Steps to Follow to Perform the Task

- 1. Explain the procedure to the resident.
- 2. Assemble the equipment at a convenient work area.
- 3. Keep the resident's apartment with proper lighting.
- 4. Keep the eye glasses clean, using soap, warm water, and a soft cloth. Do not use hot water because it may damage the eye glasses. (Eye glasses should be checked frequently and cleaned as needed. This will help minimize risk of falls and injuries.)
- 5. To avoid breakage or damage, store the glasses in a case when they are not being used. If possible, the resident's name should be imprinted on both the frames and case to prevent loss.
- 6. Check for irritation on the resident's nose and behind the ears. (Report to the nurse if redness or irritation is seen. The glasses may need to be adjusted by the optometrist.)
- 7. Encourage activities and interaction with friends and family within the resident's limitations. Offer encouragement and praise to support independence.
- 8. Use other sensory stimulation, such as the following for residents with complete or near complete loss of vision:
 - a. Always allow the blind resident to take your arm and follow.
 - b. Acquaint the resident with his/or her surroundings as to location of furniture, doors, call light.
 - c. Instruct the resident on how to use the call light to summon help if needed.
 - d. Always indicate your presence by speaking to the resident when entering or leaving the apartment.
 - e. Keep the doors closed or wide open, flush with the wall, to prevent accidents. Do not rearrange furniture or the resident's belongings without letting the resident know of the changes.
- 9. Provide resident comfort measures after assisting with any procedures.

Care of Resident with Visual Impairment



- 10. Clean and replace any equipment used.
- 11. Wash hands with hand-washing solution or use Hand Sanitizer solution if no body fluids are present.

Outcomes

- 1. Resident's optimal level of independence will be maintained.
- 2. Resident will be free from falls or accidents related to blindness or poor vision.

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

Keeping eyeglasses of visually impaired residents clean is one of the important measures that can be taken to help prevent resident falls. If eyeglasses are scratched or marred, notify nurse. New glasses may be needed.

Care of Resident with Visual Impairment



General Task: Care of the Resident with Visual Impairment

Signature of CAREGIVER	Signature of Delegating Nurse	Delegation Competency Review Date
	·	