Preface

300 Vocabulary for Nursing Career

“This is vocabulary words for nurses use in hospital”

This book is a collection of English vocabulary in the work category for nurses and doctors that are used in hospitals and communication in the general public health system and is suitable for anyone interested in medicine, nursing, and students who are beginning to learn nursing.

It would be a valuable resource for anyone interested in the medical field, especially those studying to become nurses or doctors. It could also be helpful for individuals looking to improve their understanding of medical terminology used in hospitals and public health settings. I'm sure readers will find it beneficial in expanding their vocabulary and knowledge related to medicine and nursing.

As they delve into the pages of this book, readers can expect to encounter a plethora of essential terms, phrases, and jargon commonly used in the healthcare industry. From medical procedures to patient care protocols, from anatomical terms to medication names, the book aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the vocabulary necessary for effective communication in the medical field. Whether you are a seasoned healthcare professional looking to brush up on your terminology or a newcomer eager to grasp the intricacies of nursing and medicine, this collection of English vocabulary promises to be a valuable asset in your journey towards mastering the language of healthcare.

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Introduction

Welcome to “300 Vocabulary for Nursing Career” For these words nurses use in hospitals or for Medical and Nursing Terminology: A Comprehensive Guide".

This book is designed to provide a collection of essential vocabulary for individuals aspiring to become doctors and nurses. The terms included in this book are commonly used in hospitals and healthcare settings worldwide, making it a valuable resource for those looking to enter the medical profession.

Each term in this book will be carefully described and explained in the context of nursing and medical practice. By familiarizing yourself with these terms, you will develop a better understanding of the language used in healthcare, ultimately enhancing your ability to communicate effectively with colleagues and patients.

Whether you are a student embarking on your medical or nursing journey or a seasoned professional looking to expand your knowledge, this book is a valuable tool to help you navigate the complex world of healthcare terminology. Let's begin our exploration of the essential vocabulary used in the medical and nursing professions.

300 vocabulary words for nurses use in hospitals

1. Acuity

Acuity in nursing refers to the measure of the complexity and intensity of care required by patients in a healthcare setting. It is used to determine the level of staffing and resources needed to appropriately care for patients. Acuity is assessed based on various factors such as the severity of illness, the need for monitoring, the level of care required, and the amount of assistance needed with activities of daily living. Nursing acuity is often measured using standardized scoring systems to ensure that the appropriate level of care is provided to each patient.

2. Admit

In nursing, admit refers to the process of admitting a patient into a healthcare facility, such as a hospital or clinic. When a patient is admitted, it means that they are officially registered as a patient of the facility and are receiving care and treatment. The admission process typically involves gathering initial patient information, performing assessments, obtaining consent for treatment, and providing the patient with important information regarding their stay, such as their room assignment, healthcare team, and any necessary tests or procedures. Admitting a patient is an important step in organizing and coordinating their care within the healthcare facility.

3. Ambulate

In nursing, ambulation refers to the act of assisting or encouraging a patient to walk or move around. Ambulation is an essential component of patient care, as it helps patients maintain their mobility and prevent complications associated with immobility, such as muscle weakness, pressure ulcers, and blood clots. Nurses and other

healthcare professionals may assist patients with ambulation if they are unable to walk independently or require additional support due to factors like injury, surgery, or weakness. Ambulation may involve helping a patient get out of bed, walking with them in the hallway, or providing assistance during physical therapy sessions. It is an important aspect of promoting patient independence and facilitating their recovery and rehabilitation.

4. Anesthesia

In nursing, anesthesia refers to the administration of medications or other substances that induce a temporary loss of sensation or consciousness. The purpose of anesthesia is to allow patients to undergo medical procedures or surgeries without experiencing pain or discomfort. Anesthesia is typically administered by an anesthesiologist, a specialized healthcare professional, or in some cases, by nurse anesthetists under the supervision of an anesthesiologist.

There are different types of anesthesia, including general anesthesia, regional anesthesia, and local anesthesia. General anesthesia involves inducing a state of unconsciousness, where the patient is asleep and does not feel any pain. Regional anesthesia involves numbing a specific region of the body, such as the lower half of the body (epidural anesthesia) or just an arm or leg (nerve block anesthesia). Local anesthesia numbs a small area of the body, such as a specific surgical site, and the patient remains awake. Nurses play a critical role in the administration and monitoring of anesthesia. They assist the anesthesia provider during the procedure, monitor the patient's vital signs, provide post-anesthesia care, and ensure the patient's safety and comfort throughout the process.

5. Antibiotic

In nursing, antibiotics refer to medications or substances that are used to treat bacterial infections. Antibiotics work by targeting and killing or inhibiting the growth of bacteria that cause infections. They are prescribed by healthcare providers when there is evidence or suspicion of a bacterial infection.

Nurses play a vital role in the administration and management of antibiotics. They ensure that antibiotics are administered at the prescribed dose, time, and route specified by the healthcare provider. Nurses also monitor the patient's response to the antibiotic therapy, which includes assessing for any side effects or adverse reactions. Additionally, nurses educate patients about the importance of completing the full course of antibiotics as prescribed, even if they start feeling better, to prevent the development of antibiotic resistance.

It is crucial for nurses to have knowledge about different antibiotics, including their mechanisms of action, indications, contraindications, and potential side effects. This allows nurses to provide safe and effective care to patients receiving antibiotic therapy.

6. Anticoagulant

In nursing, an anticoagulant refers to a medication that slows down or prevents blood clotting. These drugs are commonly used to treat or prevent blood clot formation in various medical conditions such as deep vein thrombosis, atrial fibrillation, pulmonary embolism, and heart attacks. Anticoagulants work by inhibiting certain clotting factors or enzymes that play a role in the coagulation process, helping to prevent the formation of dangerous blood clots that can obstruct blood vessels and cause serious complications. Nurses play a crucial role in administering and monitoring anticoagulant therapy, including assessing a patient's bleeding risk, monitoring blood coagulation levels, providing patient education on the medication's side effects and precautions, and ensuring appropriate dosage and timing for administration. Regular monitoring of anticoagulation is necessary to maintain therapeutic levels and minimize the risk of bleeding or clotting complications.

7. Antidepressant

In nursing, an antidepressant refers to a medication used to treat psychiatric conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mood disorders. These drugs work by altering the balance of certain chemicals in the brain, such as serotonin, norepinephrine, and dopamine,

which are involved in regulating mood, emotions, and mental well-being. Antidepressants are prescribed and managed by healthcare professionals, including nurses, in collaboration with psychiatrists or other mental health providers. Nurses play a critical role in assessing patients for mental health concerns, monitoring the effectiveness and side effects of antidepressant therapy, and providing education and support to patients and their families regarding proper medication use, potential interactions, and potential symptoms to watch for. They may also work alongside other members of the healthcare team to develop comprehensive treatment plans that may include counseling, therapy, and other interventions in addition to medication management.

8. Aseptic

In nursing, the term "aseptic" refers to practices and techniques that prevent the introduction, growth, and spread of microorganisms (such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi) that may cause infections. Aseptic techniques are necessary to create and maintain a sterile or clean environment, especially in healthcare settings such as hospitals, operating rooms, and clinics.

Nurses follow aseptic principles to minimize the risk of infections during procedures, surgeries, wound care, and the administration of medications or intravenous fluids. Examples of aseptic techniques include:

1. Hand hygiene: Strict handwashing or the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers before and after patient care activities.

2. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE): Wearing gloves, masks, gowns, and goggles or face shields to protect both the healthcare worker and the patient from the transmission of microorganisms.

3. Sterile technique: Following specific protocols for preparing and handling sterile equipment, instruments, dressings, or solutions to prevent contamination.

4. Proper disinfection and cleaning: Using appropriate disinfectants and cleaning agents to ensure surfaces, medical equipment, and patient care areas are free from harmful microorganisms.

5. Safe injection practices: Utilizing sterile needles, syringes, and vials, and adhering to guidelines for proper disposal of sharps and contaminated materials.

By practicing aseptic techniques, nurses contribute to the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and promote patient safety and well-being.

9. Auscultate

In nursing, auscultation refers to the act of listening to sounds produced by the body using a stethoscope. It is a commonly used technique to assess and gather information about the functioning of various organ systems, particularly the cardiovascular and respiratory systems.

During auscultation, nurses place the stethoscope on specific areas of the body to listen to internal sounds. For example:

1. Cardiovascular auscultation involves listening to heart sounds such as the lub-dub sound of the heart valves, abnormal heart murmurs, or irregular rhythms.

2. Respiratory auscultation involves listening to breath sounds in different areas of the lungs to assess air movement, detect abnormal sounds (such as crackles, wheezes, or rhonchi), or monitor respiratory patterns.

Auscultation is also used in other areas of nursing care, such as assessing bowel sounds in the abdomen or assessing sounds in the arteries for signs of vascular abnormalities or narrowing.

Nurses are trained to identify normal and abnormal sounds during auscultation, which can provide valuable diagnostic information to aid in the evaluation, treatment, and monitoring of patients. It is a non-invasive and cost-effective assessment technique that is widely utilized in routine nursing assessments as well as in more critical situations.

10. Autonomy

In nursing, autonomy refers to a patient's right to make their own decisions about their healthcare and participate actively in their treatment plan. It is one of the fundamental ethical principles in healthcare, referred to as patient autonomy or individual autonomy.

Autonomy emphasizes the respect for a patient's self-determination and their ability to make choices according to their own values, beliefs, and preferences. Nurses play a crucial role in promoting and safeguarding patient autonomy by:

1. Providing accurate and reliable information: Nurses educate patients about their health condition, available treatment options, risks, benefits, and alternatives. They ensure that patients have the necessary information to make informed decisions about their care.

2. Facilitating shared decision-making: Nurses collaborate with patients, their families, and other healthcare professionals in the decision-making process. They engage in open and respectful communication, actively listen to patients' concerns and preferences, and support them in making decisions that align with their values and goals.

3. Respecting patient choices: Nurses respect and honor the decisions made by competent patients, even if they may not necessarily agree with them. They advocate for their patients' choices, ensuring that their decisions are reflected in their care plans and treatment options.

4. Protecting patient rights: Nurses ensure that patients' rights to autonomy are upheld and protected. This includes privacy and confidentiality, informed consent, and the right to refuse or discontinue treatment.

5. Providing patient education: Nurses empower patients by providing education and resources to enhance their understanding of their health conditions, treatment options, and self-care management. This allows patients to actively participate in their healthcare decisions and take ownership of their well-being.

Overall, autonomy in nursing recognizes and promotes the importance of patient-centered care, respecting patients' rights, and involving them in decision-making processes to achieve the best possible outcomes.

11. Bacterium

Bacterium refers to a single bacterium, which is a microscopic organism that can cause infection or disease in humans. In nursing, understanding bacterium is important for infection control measures, proper sterilization techniques, and recommending appropriate antibiotic treatments. Nurses need to be knowledgeable about various bacteria and their characteristics in order to provide effective care and prevent the spread of infections in healthcare settings.

12. Bandage

A bandage in nursing refers to a material or dressing used to cover a wound or injury. It is an essential component of wound care and is employed to protect the wound, promote healing, prevent infection, and provide support. Bandages can be made of various materials such as cloth, gauze, adhesive, or elastic. They can be applied in different ways, depending on the type and location of the wound. Nurses are trained in proper bandage techniques to ensure the safety and comfort of the patient, as well as to facilitate healing and prevent complications.

13. Bedpan

A bedpan in nursing refers to a shallow, flat-bottomed container designed to be placed under a patient's buttocks to collect urine or feces while they are unable to use the toilet. Bedpans are commonly used in healthcare settings for patients who are bedridden, have limited mobility, or are unable to get out of bed due to a medical condition, injury, or post-surgical recovery. They are made of plastic or metal and have a low rim to provide comfort and ease of use. Nurses assist patients with using a bedpan, ensuring privacy, maintaining cleanliness, and providing appropriate hygiene care after its use.

14. Blood pressure

Blood pressure in nursing refers to the measurement of the force of blood against the walls of the arteries as the heart pumps it around the body. It is an important vital sign that provides information about a person's cardiovascular health. Blood pressure is measured using a sphygmomanometer, which consists of an inflatable cuff and a pressure gauge. The measurement is expressed as two values: systolic pressure over diastolic pressure, for example, 120/80 mmHg. Systolic pressure represents the force when the heart contracts and pumps blood, while diastolic pressure represents the force when the heart is at rest between beats. Nurses are responsible for monitoring patients' blood pressure regularly, both in clinical settings and during home visits, as it helps to detect hypertension or hypotension, assess treatment effectiveness, and evaluate overall cardiovascular health. Nurses also educate patients on maintaining healthy blood pressure levels and managing any blood pressure related conditions.

15. Catheter

A catheter in nursing refers to a medical device that is used to introduce or withdraw fluids from the body. It is a flexible tube that is inserted into a specific area, such as a blood vessel, bladder, or vein, to perform various medical procedures. Catheters are made from different materials, depending on their purpose and location of insertion.

In nursing, catheters are commonly used for different purposes such as:

- Urinary catheters: These are inserted into the bladder through the urethra to drain urine in patients who may be unable to urinate on their own, such as those with urinary retention or undergoing surgery.
- Intravenous catheters: These are inserted into a vein and used for delivering medications, fluids, or blood products directly into the bloodstream.
- Central venous catheters: These are long, flexible tubes inserted into large veins near the heart, typically used for delivering medications, nutrition, or hemodialysis over a prolonged period.
- Arterial catheters: These are inserted into an artery for continuous monitoring of blood pressure and arterial blood gases.
- Cardiac catheters: These are inserted into blood vessels in the heart for diagnostic purposes or to perform interventional procedures such as angioplasty or stent placement.

Nurses play a crucial role in the proper insertion, care, and removal of catheters to maintain aseptic technique, prevent infections, and ensure patient comfort and safety. They also monitor patients for any complications associated with catheter use and provide education on catheter care and hygiene.

16. Central line

A central line in nursing refers to a type of intravenous (IV) access device that is inserted into a large vein in the body for various medical purposes. Also known as a central venous catheter (CVC), it is typically placed in veins near the heart, such as the subclavian vein or the jugular vein.

Unlike regular IV lines, which are inserted into peripheral veins in the arms or hands, a central line provides access to larger veins and is used for more complex medical treatments. It allows for the administration of medications, fluids, blood products, and nutritional support, as well as the monitoring of central venous pressure.

The insertion of a central line is a sterile procedure performed by trained healthcare professionals, often under ultrasound guidance. Nurses play a key role in the care and management of central lines, including dressing changes, monitoring for signs of infection or complications, and ensuring proper functioning and maintenance.
Central lines may be used in various clinical settings, including intensive care units, operating rooms, and certain outpatient settings. They are commonly used for patients who require long-term IV therapy, frequent blood draws, or specialized treatments such as chemotherapy or hemodialysis. However, central lines carry a risk of complications, such as infection and thrombosis, so proper care and monitoring are essential to minimize these risks.

17. Cervix

In nursing, the cervix refers to the lower narrow portion of the uterus that connects it to the vagina. It is a cylindrical structure composed of fibrous tissue and muscle, with an opening at the center known as the cervical os. The cervix plays a crucial role in reproductive health, as it allows for the passage of menstrual blood from the uterus and serves as the entrance to the uterus during sexual intercourse and childbirth.

In the context of nursing, the cervix is an important anatomical structure that nurses may assess and monitor in various situations, including:

1. Gynecological exams: Nurses may assist healthcare providers during pelvic exams to assess the health of the cervix, which may involve visual inspection, palpation, or the use of specialized instruments like a speculum.

2. Pap smears: Nurses may perform or assist with pap smears, which involve collecting cells from the cervix to screen for cervical cancer or abnormalities.

3. Labor and delivery: During childbirth, nurses may monitor the dilation and effacement (thinning) of the cervix to assess the progress of labor. They may also perform cervical checks to determine if a woman is in the active phase of labor.

4. Cervical ripening: In certain situations, such as induction of labor, nurses may be involved in the administration or management of medications or procedures to help ripen or dilate the cervix in preparation for childbirth.

Understanding the anatomy and function of the cervix is essential for nurses to provide comprehensive care related to women's health, including preventive screenings, reproductive health education, and support during labor and delivery.

18. Circulation

Circulation in nursing refers to the movement of blood through the body's blood vessels, which is essential for delivering oxygen and nutrients to various body tissues and removing waste products. Nurses play a crucial role in assessing and monitoring a patient's circulatory system by checking vital signs, such as heart rate, blood pressure, and oxygen levels, as well as observing for any signs of impaired circulation, such as cool or pale skin, weak or absent pulses, or edema. Nurses also provide interventions to promote proper circulation, such as positioning patients correctly, administering medications, or managing intravenous fluids.

19. Colostomy

Colostomy in nursing refers to a surgical procedure that involves creating an opening in the abdominal wall, called a stoma, through which a portion of the colon (large intestine) is brought to the surface. This procedure is typically done when a portion of the colon needs to be bypassed or removed due to various medical conditions, such as colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, or intestinal obstruction.

In nursing, the care of patients with a colostomy involves providing education and support to help them adjust to life with a stoma. Nurses teach patients how to care for their colostomy bags, which collect stool from the stoma. This includes proper cleaning, emptying, and changing of the bags. Nurses also monitor patients for any complications or issues related to the colostomy, such as infection, skin irritation, or blockage, and provide appropriate interventions. Additionally, they offer emotional

support and education to help patients maintain their independence and quality of life with a colostomy.

20. Coma

Coma in nursing refers to a state of unconsciousness in which an individual is unresponsive and unable to be awakened. It is a severe medical condition that may be caused by various factors, such as traumatic brain injury, stroke, drug overdose, severe infection, metabolic disorders, or lack of oxygen to the brain.

In nursing, the care of patients in a coma involves close monitoring and assessment of their vital signs, neurological status, and overall condition. Nurses play a critical role in providing ongoing care to these patients, including the administration of medications, monitoring and maintaining ventilation, suctioning secretions, monitoring intracranial pressure if applicable, and preventing complications such as pressure ulcers and contractures.

Nurses also provide support and education to the patient's family, as they may be emotionally overwhelmed and require information on the patient's condition, prognosis, and treatment plan. Depending on the cause and severity of the coma, nursing care may focus on assisting patients in regaining consciousness or providing end-of-life care and comfort measures.

21. Contagious

In nursing, "contagious" refers to the ability of a disease or infection to be transmitted from one person to another through direct or indirect contact. When a disease or infection is contagious, it means that it can be spread easily from an infected individual to others who come into contact with them.

Nurses play a vital role in identifying and managing contagious conditions in healthcare settings. They follow strict infection control protocols to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. This includes practicing proper hand hygiene,

wearing personal protective equipment (such as gloves, masks, and gowns), and implementing isolation precautions when necessary. Nurses also educate patients, families, and visitors on the importance of infection prevention measures, such as covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing, properly disposing of tissues, and avoiding close contact with infected individuals.

Additionally, nurses closely monitor patients with contagious conditions to ensure they receive appropriate treatment, maintain isolation as needed, and observe for any worsening of symptoms or complications. By implementing infection control practices and providing comprehensive care, nurses help prevent the spread of contagious diseases and promote the health and safety of both patients and healthcare providers.

22. CPR

CPR in nursing stands for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. It is an emergency procedure performed to manually preserve brain function until further medical intervention can be administered, in cases of cardiac arrest or when a person's heart and/or breathing has stopped.

In CPR, nurses perform a combination of chest compressions and rescue breaths to help circulate oxygenated blood to vital organs, particularly the brain. The chest compressions are performed to manually pump the heart, mimicking its pumping action, while rescue breaths involve providing artificial ventilation by delivering breaths into the patient's airway to maintain oxygenation.

Nurses are trained in CPR techniques, which include proper hand placement, compression depth and rate, and the ratio of chest compressions to rescue breaths. They also learn to recognize the signs of a cardiac arrest and quickly initiate CPR when necessary.

Alongside CPR, nurses may use automated external defibrillators (AEDs) to deliver electrical shocks to the heart to restore normal rhythm. They also monitor vital signs

and administer appropriate medications or interventions as directed by the medical team during resuscitation efforts.

Given their critical role in patient care, nurses are often at the frontline in initiating CPR and providing life-saving interventions, both within hospital and community settings.

23. Critical

In nursing, "critical" refers to the condition or situation in which a patient's health status is deteriorating rapidly and immediate intervention is required to prevent further harm or potential loss of life. Critical situations can arise in various healthcare settings, such as intensive care units (ICUs), emergency departments, or during specific procedures or treatments.

Nurses working in critical care or emergency settings are trained to assess and manage patients with complex and unstable conditions. They closely monitor vital signs, perform ongoing assessments, and use their clinical judgment to identify early signs of deterioration. When a patient becomes critical, nurses must act quickly and decisively to provide appropriate interventions, call for assistance from the healthcare team, and initiate lifesaving measures as necessary.

Critical nursing also involves the ability to prioritize care and multitask effectively. Nurses may be responsible for administering medications, titrating IV drips, managing ventilators, inserting invasive monitoring devices, and coordinating diagnostic tests or interventions. They work closely with other members of the healthcare team to develop and implement comprehensive care plans tailored to the patient's specific needs.

Furthermore, critical nursing requires excellent communication and collaboration skills to effectively communicate with patients, their families, and other healthcare professionals involved in the patient's care. Nurses must be able to provide clear and concise updates on the patient's condition, relay information in urgent situations, and advocate for the patient's best interests.

Overall, critical nursing involves the ability to respond swiftly and decisively to rapidly changing patient conditions, provide optimal care and interventions, and ensure the best possible outcomes for critically ill or injured patients.

24. Defibrillator

In nursing, a defibrillator refers to a medical device used to deliver an electrical shock to the heart when a person is experiencing a life-threatening cardiac rhythm disturbance, such as ventricular fibrillation or ventricular tachycardia. These arrhythmias can cause the heart to stop pumping effectively, leading to cardiac arrest.

Defibrillators are designed to restore the heart's normal rhythm by delivering a controlled electric shock to the chest wall. This shock interrupts the chaotic electrical activity in the heart, allowing the heart's natural pacemaker to reestablish a coordinated heartbeat.

Nurses play a critical role in the use of defibrillators in various healthcare settings, including hospitals, emergency departments, critical care units, and ambulatory care centers. They are trained in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) and are responsible for recognizing life-threatening cardiac rhythms, determining when defibrillation is necessary, and administering the appropriate treatment.

Nurses assess the patient's condition and, if defibrillation is indicated, follow proper safety protocols, such as ensuring that everyone is clear of the patient before delivering the electric shock. They apply the defibrillator pads to the patient's chest, initiate the machine, and monitor the patient's response. Nurses also coordinate with the healthcare team to ensure that further interventions and care are promptly provided after defibrillation.

Moreover, nurses educate patients, families, and caregivers on the use and importance of defibrillators. They may provide instruction on how to use automated

external defibrillators (AEDs) in public places or community settings, emphasizing the crucial role of early defibrillation in improving survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest.

25. Dementia

In nursing, dementia refers to a group of conditions characterized by a decline in cognitive function and memory, leading to impairment in activities of daily living and overall functioning. Dementia is not a specific disease but a syndrome encompassing a range of symptoms associated with the progressive decline of cognitive abilities.

Nurses play a significant role in the care of individuals with dementia. They provide assessment, support, and interventions to manage the physical, emotional, and social needs of patients with this condition. Nursing care for individuals with dementia includes:

1. Assessment: Nurses perform comprehensive assessments to evaluate the individual's cognitive status, functional abilities, behavioral changes, and overall health. They monitor and assess changes in cognition, behavior, and physical status over time.

2. Medication management: Nurses collaborate with healthcare providers to administer and monitor medications prescribed for managing dementia symptoms, such as memory-enhancing drugs or medications to address behavioral issues.

3. Personal care assistance: Nurses help individuals with dementia with activities of daily living, including bathing, dressing, toileting, and eating. They ensure that the environment is safe and supportive for the specific needs of individuals with dementia.

4. Communication and emotional support: Nurses employ effective communication techniques to interact and engage with individuals with dementia, using simple language, non-verbal cues, and patience. They provide emotional support to individuals and their families, as they navigate the challenging journey of dementia.

5. Collaborative care: Nurses work in collaboration with interdisciplinary healthcare teams, including physicians, social workers, occupational therapists, and speech therapists, to develop and implement individualized care plans for individuals with dementia.

Nurses also provide education and guidance to families and caregivers on how to effectively care for and communicate with individuals with dementia. They assist in developing strategies to manage behavior changes, promote a supportive environment, and engage individuals in meaningful activities to maintain their quality of life.

26. Dialysis

In nursing, dialysis refers to a medical procedure that helps perform the function of the kidneys when they are no longer able to adequately filter and remove waste products and excess fluid from the body. Dialysis is commonly used in the treatment of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) or acute kidney injury.

There are two primary types of dialysis: hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

1. Hemodialysis: Hemodialysis involves the use of a machine called a dialyzer to filter the blood. During hemodialysis, blood is pumped from the patient's body through specialized tubing into the dialyzer, where it is cleaned and filtered. The filtered blood is then returned to the patient's body. Hemodialysis is typically performed in a dialysis center or hospital setting, and nurses play a crucial role in monitoring the patient's vital signs, ensuring proper dialysis machine functioning, and assessing for any complications or adverse reactions during and after the procedure. They also provide education regarding diet, fluid restrictions, medication management, and preventive care for patients on long-term hemodialysis.

2. Peritoneal dialysis: Peritoneal dialysis involves the use of the peritoneal membrane in the abdomen to remove waste and excess fluid from the body. A sterile dialysis

solution is introduced into the abdominal cavity through a catheter, and it is allowed to dwell for a specified period. The solution absorbs waste products and excess fluid, and then it is drained out of the body. Peritoneal dialysis can be performed at home or in a healthcare facility, and nurses are responsible for teaching patients and their caregivers how to perform the procedure, ensuring proper technique, and monitoring for any complications or infections.

Nurses also play a critical role in assessing and managing complications of dialysis, such as infection, vascular access issues, fluid imbalances, electrolyte abnormalities, and changes in the patient's overall condition. They collaborate with the healthcare team to provide comprehensive care, promote patient comfort, and optimize dialysis outcomes.

27. Diminished

In nursing, "diminished" refers to a decrease or reduction in a specific aspect or function related to a patient's health status. It implies that there has been a decline or impairment compared to what is considered normal or expected.

The term "diminished" is often used to describe various physical, cognitive, or sensory functions in healthcare settings. For example:

1. Diminished respiratory function: This refers to a decrease in the efficiency or capacity of the respiratory system, such as reduced lung function or impaired oxygenation. Nurses assess and monitor respiratory rates, oxygen saturation levels, and other respiratory parameters to identify any signs of diminished respiratory function.

2. Diminished mobility: This refers to a decreased ability to move or walk independently. It can occur as a result of various factors, including musculoskeletal problems, neurological conditions, or generalized weakness. Nurses assess and assist patients with impaired mobility, implement appropriate interventions, and