

## N-120 Nursing Bag

### Purpose

Carry adequate supplies for home care clients

Maintain supplies in clean environment.

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment/Supplies

- Keep paper towels, handwashing soap and waterless handwashing solution in the outside pocket of the bag.
- Sterile gauze pads.
- Venipuncture supplies.
- Tape.
- Syringes.
- Blood pressure cuff.
- Stethoscope.
- Gloves.
- Alcohol wipes and antiseptic solutions.
- Dressing supplies as needed.
- Catheter supplies as needed.

### Guidelines

The inside of the bag and its contents are considered clean. Therefore:

Hand washing must occur before entering the bag for any reason.

All items removed from the bag should be cleaned before returning to the bag.

Check and restock the bag at regular intervals to assure appropriate and current supplies are available.

Documentation should include the supplies used and charge slips completed as needed.

Supplies for a specific client should be carried separate from the nurse's stock supply.

When in a client's home, place the bag on a clean and dry surface. If there is no suitable place in the home, take only those items into the home that are needed for the visit

### Special Considerations

Supplies carried in the nurse's bag and kept in the car are subject to extremes of temperature. This exposure may cause deterioration. Examples include urinary catheters, hydrocolloid dressings and vacuum tubes used for blood collection.

All nurses should carry a supply of plastic bags for disposal of used supplies that are not considered biohazardous waste and to use for the transport of specimens.

Additional supplies may be carried in the car. Supplies should be placed in plastic containers with lids and labeled.

Check all supplies on a regular basis to assure they are not outdated or contaminated.

Check agency policies related to the management of supplies

Care of the Nursing Bag:

Daily: Replace all used equipment and supplies.

Quarterly: Remove all articles. Wash the outside of the bag and the inner lining with soap and water. Dry thoroughly. Replace articles.

**Related Procedures**

None.

**Policy History**

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