

N.C. Nurse Aide I Curriculum

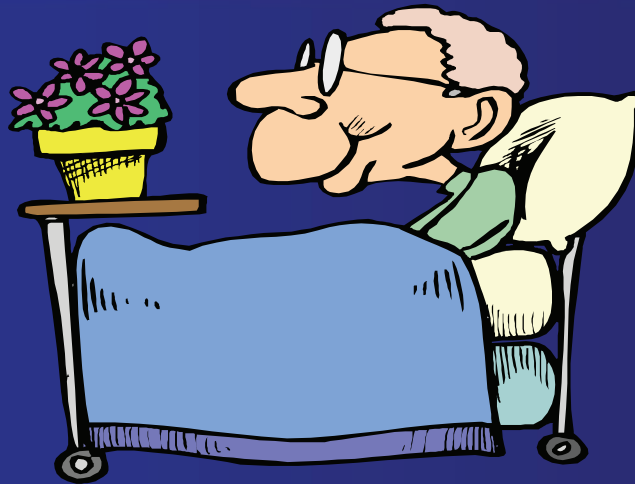
MODULE C

The Resident's Environment: Safety and Emergency

Objectives

- Explain why residents in long-term care facilities are at risk for injury.
- Identify the role of the nurse aide in maintaining a safe environment for the resident.
- Describe the role of the nurse aide in dealing with emergencies in a health care facility.

Safety in the Resident's Environment - Definition



When a resident has little risk of illness or injury in the environment to which he/she lives

Resident's Environment

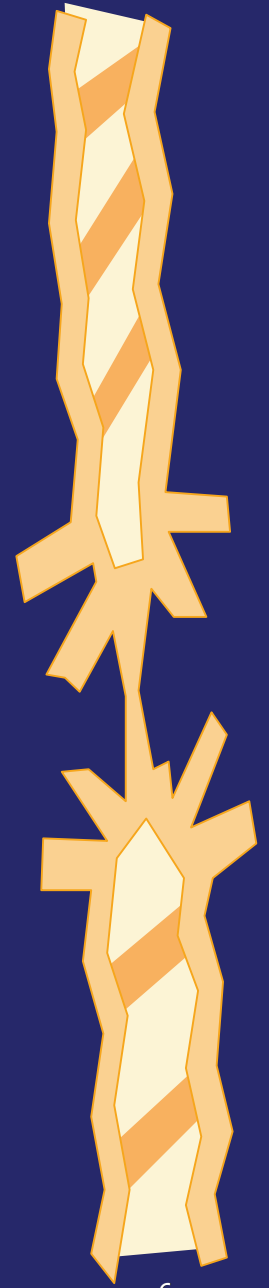
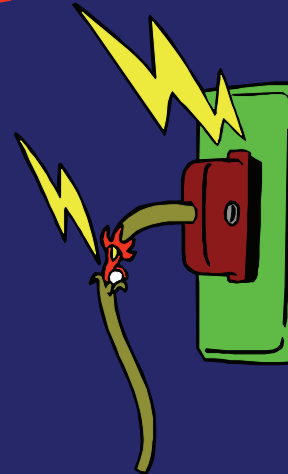


Area of a long-term care center that a resident calls home





HAZARD



Safety in the Resident's Environment

- Facilities must follow safety policies and procedures
- Resident's room should be homelike and safe
- Safety is basic resident need and residents at risk for accidents and falls

**Safety Policies
& Procedures
Manual**

GOAL: Keep resident safe, without limiting independence & mobility

Elderly at Greater Risk for Injury – Why?

- Knee joint instability
- ↓ strength
- Slower movement
- Side effects from meds
- ↓ blood pressure



Remember, your residents are relying on you to keep them safe

Elderly at Greater Risk for Injury – Why?

- Impaired coordination
- Hearing impairment
- Reduced sense of smell and touch
- Visual impairment
- Cognitive impairment

Remember, your residents are relying on you to keep them safe





Falls in the Nursing Home

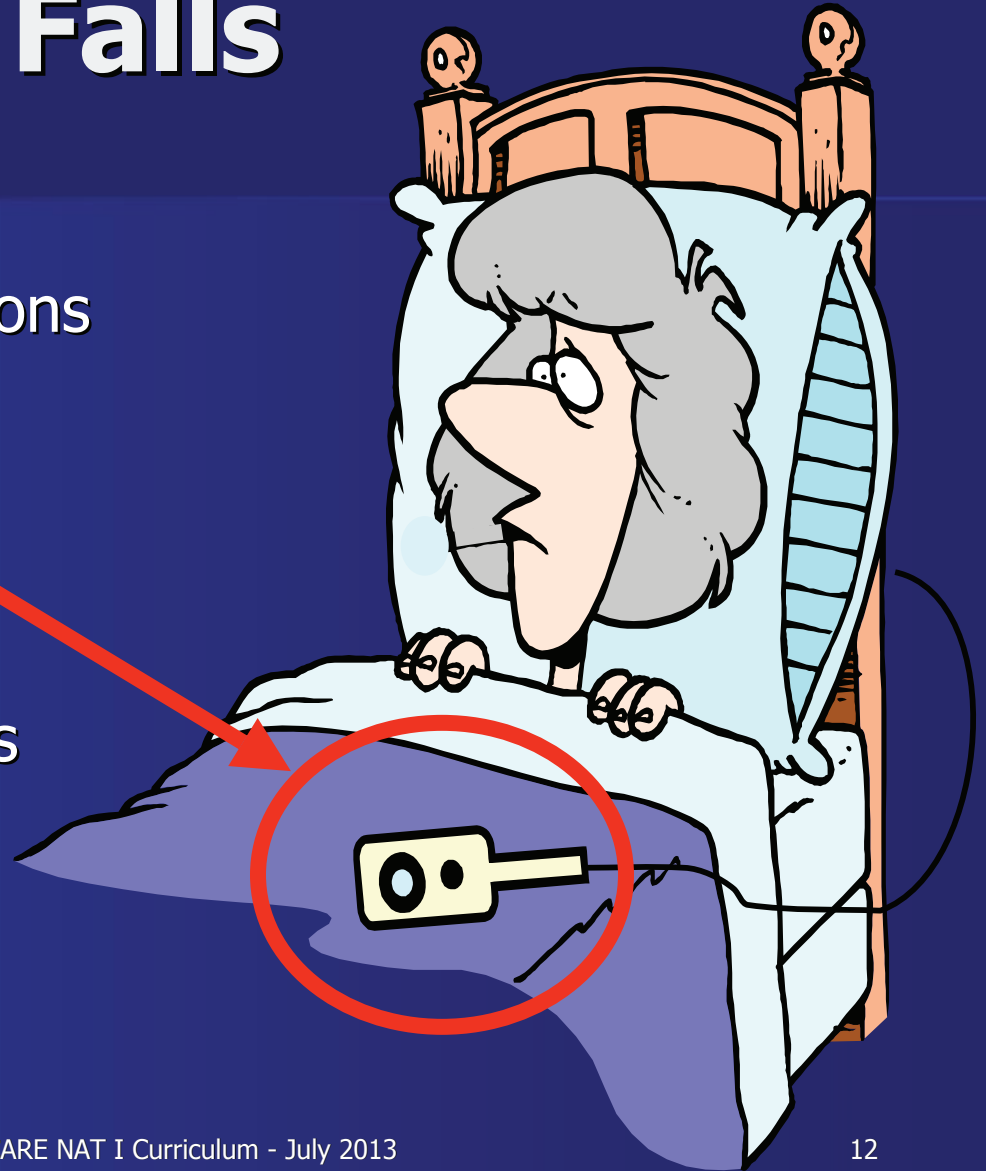
Preventing Falls



- Assist with ambulation when necessary
- Provide appropriate assistance/supervision
- Keep environment free of clutter
- Keep all walkways free from rugs, cords, boxes, and equipment
- Observe frequently

Preventing Falls

- Report unsafe conditions
- Answer call signals promptly
- Properly position residents
- Wipe up spilled liquids
- Pick up litter



Keeping Residents Safe – Nurse Aide's Role

Maintain comfortable
temperature and lighting,
based on resident's
preference



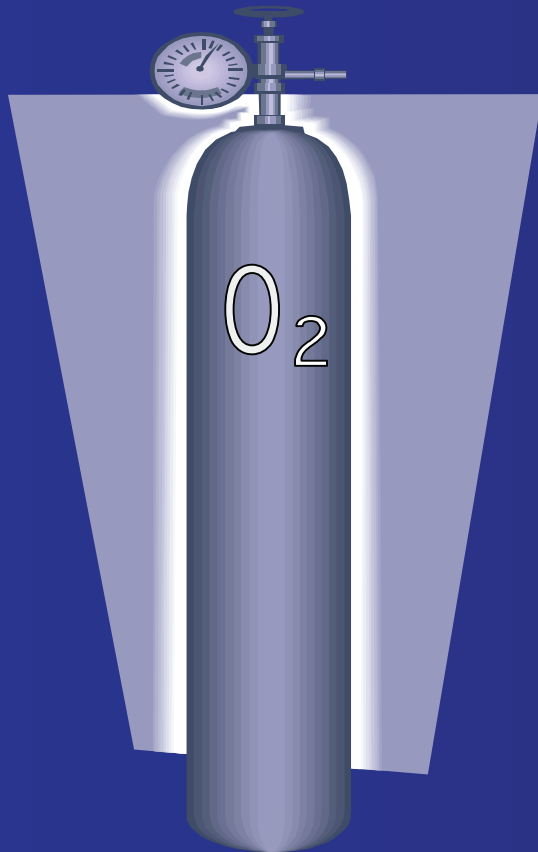
Keep resident's unit
clean and free from dirty
items

Keeping Residents Safe – Nurse Aide's Role



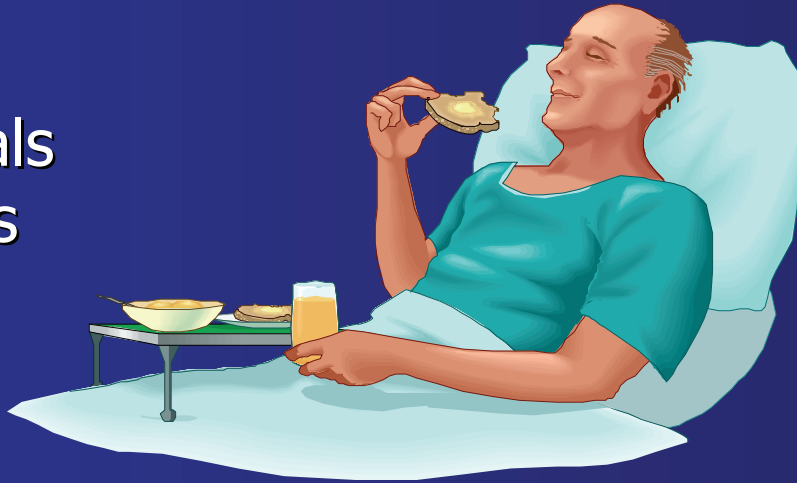
- Identify and report unsafe conditions or equipment
- Keep room free of clutter
- Arrange personal items per resident preference
- Check linen for personal property

Keeping Residents Safe – Receiving Oxygen (O_2)



Keeping Residents Safe – From Choking

- Sit residents ↑
to eat
- Assist with meals
to prevent spills
of hot liquids
- Encourage use
of dentures
- Assist with cutting of food
- Report difficulties in chewing or swallowing



Points to Remember About Safety

- Provide care to right resident
- Watch feet during wheelchair transport
- Monitor wandering residents
- Keep bed in lowest position; call signal in place
- Arrangement of room



Points to Remember About Safety

- Lock wheelchairs before transfer
- Over-bed table is clean area and must be kept clean and clutter-free
- Full visual privacy option important
- OBRA temperature requirements



Points to Remember About Safety

- Always check water temp before bath or shower
- Report too hot water



Medical Emergency

- **A dire situation when a person's health or life is at risk**
- **Most serious medical emergencies – unconscious resident, resident not breathing, resident has no pulse, and resident is bleeding severely**

Helping Conscious Residents Who are Choking

A common sign that residents are choking is when they put their hands around their throats



Helping Conscious Residents Who are Choking

- Encourage resident to cough as forcefully as possible
- Ask someone to get a nurse
- Stay with person
- Follow facility's procedure for clearing an obstructed airway



Keeping Residents Safe – in the Event of a Fire



- Keep calm
- Follow facility policy
- Close all windows and doors
- Never use elevator
- Remember RACE and PASS

In the Event of a Fire

- Remove residents from danger
- Activate alarm
- Contain the fire by closing all doors or windows, if possible
- Extinguish the fire (or fire department will extinguish the fire)



Acronym for Fire Extinguisher Use



Pull Pin



Aim at Base of Fire

Squeeze Handle

Sweep Back & Forth

The End