The Nursing Bag

The Nursing Bag must have the basic equipment, with supplemental items for specific procedures carried in either the bag or separate containers. Esentially item may includes:

- Paper towels are used to dry hands and create as an aid to protect the patient's environment from the "dirty" outside of the bag and to protect the bag from environmental cross-contamination and allergies.
- Soap in container (or cleansing agent, hand sanitizer).
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Infusion (Gloves, Mask, etc.)
- Antiseptic wipes are used as a disinfectant for cleaning items such as IV cuffs, prior to removing items to the nursing bag.
- Paper or plastic bags are used for disposal of waste materials and returned disposables by the contracted company.
- Thermometers with disposable sheaths.
- Ophthalmoscope, stethoscope, tongue blade for assessing bowel and mouth.
- Sphygmomanometer with several sized cuffs for measuring the blood pressure of clients of varying age and size.
- Stethoscope with bell and diaphragm for measuring blood pressure and auscultation or inspiration, respiration and other appropriate systems.
- Percheck for assessing presence of light reflex in eye, mouth and anophthalmos, in special situations, multi-purpose.

Setting Up

The nursing bag is placed on a paper towel, bed pad, or chair on a flat, open and dry surface. It should be near the bed and kept out of the reach of children and pets. The outside of the bag is considered soiled. The soap container and several extra paper towels are then removed and placed on the work area. Use a current head washing technique. Close under nails daily. Keep nails trimmed closely as they harbor bacteria. After the hands are washed, set waterless cleanser out on the counter, if necessary for providing care is removed from the bag. Special procedure sets are set up next, and appropriatesudo or surgical aseptic technique are used. Any time that additional equipment is needed from the existing bag, hands must be washed again. Aseptic equipment and special supplies are placed on the clean side of the work area. After use, they are washed with soap and water, dried, wiped with disinfectant such as soap, and returned to the nursing bag. Equipment in the bag is removed and disposed of in a closed, pressured container for future use. Materials that can be disinfected by soaking in a specific solution of sodium hypochlorite should be soaked for at least 30 minutes, then washed with soap and water. All instruments are sterilized in the central supplies room (Ship-Rite). Equipment such as stethoscopes, tape measures, soap containers, are recharged for multi-purpose use. Before returning them to the bag, the items are cleaned, and if possible, washed and wiped with an alcohol or other disinfectant. Equipment is cleaned with an antimicrobial wipe. It is recommended that very few weeks the cover is washed in warm, soapy water and dried. At this time the vacuum cleaner is cleaned of any debris such as lint.