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Fluid balance calculation

Core Nursing Essentials Nursing Calculations

Recorded fluid balance equals measured intake minus measured output over the same interval. A positive balance does not by itself prove overload.

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Introduction & key concepts

Recorded fluid balance equals measured intake minus measured output over the same interval. A positive balance does not by itself prove overload.

Nursing responsibilities

- Check identity, consent, the relevant observations and the purpose of the assessment.
- Record the finding, context and response using the approved clinical record.
- Escalate uncertainty or deterioration to the responsible professional; do not use a study note as a standing treatment order.

Clinical example & examination focus

In a viva, explain fluid balance calculation in your own words, identify the observations needed and state a limitation. Compare the finding with the patient's baseline rather than assuming one number or label gives a diagnosis.

Quick Revision

Recorded fluid balance equals measured intake minus measured output over the same interval. A positive balance does not by itself prove overload.

Frequently asked question

Can this summary replace practical training?

No. Use your prescribed learning material and the institution's current protocol with qualified supervision.

References & review status

- Nurses Content - original dimensional arithmetic (https://nurses-content-anatomy-sam.tamenewt4.chatgpt.site/essentials/calculators/) - Arithmetic test suite, 26 November 2026. Formula derivations and unit identities only; no clinical dose range is certified.

Sources checked for the stated scope on 26 November 2026. Original study synthesis; independent clinical review is not claimed. Source attribution is not a copyright-clearance certificate.

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