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Cerebral palsy supportive care Initial assessment

Child Health Nursing | Initial assessment

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Fictional educational example. Individualize using verified patient findings, authorized treatment and current local protocols. No real patient record or observed outcome is claimed.

Clinical assessment

Subjective: Difficulty with movement, daily care and tiring during meals.

Objective findings and required checks: Motor impairment and support needs; assess communication, swallowing, skin and growth individually.

Physical examination and investigations: Review functional abilities, swallowing, nutrition, communication and rehabilitation assessments.

Supply actual values, units, timing and trends during supervised application. Do not invent missing clinical data.

Clinical focus and pathophysiology

Cerebral palsy supportive care: Early non-progressive brain injury affects motor control; associated needs vary widely.

Medical / surgical management

Provide individualized positioning, mobility aids, communication support and a safe feeding/self-care plan.

Illustrative drug and treatment study

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Medicine / treatment	Purpose	Nursing checks
Prescribed antispasticity medicine	Manage selected troublesome muscle tone	Monitor sedation, weakness and functional effect
prescribed other therapy	Treat identified associated conditions	Verify the individualized specialist plan.

Treatment examples are not a prescription. Verify the authorized product, dose, route, timing, contraindications and current local product information.

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Nursing care plan

Nursing diagnoses use original clinical problem wording. They are not the licensed NANDA-I classification. Verify any formal label or code against your institution's licensed current edition; select actual or risk diagnoses only when supported by assessment.

Context task: Establish the immediate clinical priorities and verify the baseline before assuming a diagnosis.

Set individualized measurable targets and an exact review time. Select actual or risk statements only when supported by assessment.

Assessment: subjective / objective	Nursing diagnosis: original problem wording	Short- and longer-term goals	Nursing interventions with rationale	Evaluation
Ask: Ask about usual mobility, fatigue and help needed with activities. Assess: Assess strength, range, gait, balance and ordered movement restrictions.	Movement limited by weakness, discomfort or restriction. Possible factors: reduced strength, pain or prescribed movement limits. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: Completes a jointly agreed movement task safely with appropriate assistance. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Demonstrates the home exercise or mobility plan before discharge.	1. Assess assistance needs and confirm prescribed restrictions before mobilization. Rationale: Matching support to ability prevents injury. 2. Plan graded movement, position changes and rest with physiotherapy where indicated. Rationale: Progressive activity supports function while limiting exhaustion. 3. Monitor tolerance and stop for new concerning symptoms. Rationale: Symptoms may indicate unsafe exertion or deterioration. 4. Provide individualized positioning, mobility aids, communication support and a safe feeding/self-care plan. Rationale: Early non-progressive brain injury affects motor control; associated needs vary widely. The condition-specific plan addresses the underlying problem while response is monitored.	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.

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Assessment: subjective / objective	Nursing diagnosis: original problem wording	Short- and longer-term goals	Nursing interventions with rationale	Evaluation
Ask: Ask which activities the person can do and where help is wanted. Assess: Assess personal-care tasks, cognition, mobility and available support.	Daily self-care needs exceed current ability. Possible factors: weakness, symptoms or reduced confidence. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: Completes a chosen self-care activity with the agreed level of assistance. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Patient or caregiver demonstrates essential care skills and knows support options.	1. Assess ability task by task and respect preferences and privacy. Rationale: Specific assessment prevents unnecessary dependence. 2. Provide only the assistance required and use suitable aids. Rationale: Supported participation protects dignity and builds independence. 3. Teach caregivers with consent and confirm realistic support at home. Rationale: Continuity depends on available skills and resources.	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.
Ask: Ask about coughing with meals, choking and voice changes. Assess: Observe secretion handling and follow a validated swallowing-screen pathway.	Difficulty swallowing with possible aspiration. Possible factors: impaired swallowing coordination or reduced airway protection. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: Airway remains protected while an appropriate feeding plan is established. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Patient or caregiver follows the assessed swallowing and feeding plan.	1. Withhold oral intake when safety is uncertain and request the appropriate swallowing assessment. Rationale: Unassessed oral intake may cause aspiration. 2. Use only the assessed posture, texture and assistance plan. Rationale: Individual recommendations improve swallowing safety. 3. Maintain oral care and monitor respiratory changes. Rationale: Oral hygiene and early recognition reduce consequences of aspiration.	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.
Ask: Ask what the learner already knows and wants to understand. Assess:	Learning needs about the condition and care plan. Possible factors: new	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time:	1. Assess language, literacy, hearing, vision and preferred learning method. Rationale: Accessible teaching improves understanding. 2. Teach a few	Record the baseline and reassessed finding, the time

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Assessment: subjective / objective	Nursing diagnosis: original problem wording	Short- and longer-term goals	Nursing interventions with rationale	Evaluation
Use teach-back or demonstration to identify specific gaps.	information, complex treatment or limited prior teaching. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Explains the most important immediate action in their own words. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Demonstrates the agreed care skills and names follow-up and warning signs.	condition-specific points using plain language and demonstration. Rationale: Focused information is easier to retain and apply. 3. Use teach-back, correct misunderstandings and provide an accessible written plan. Rationale: Checking understanding supports safer self-management. 4. Teach safe handling, aids, feeding plan and accessible participation in school and daily activities. Rationale: Condition-specific teaching connects the treatment plan to safe continuing care.	and whether this goal is met, partly met or not met. If not met, reassess causes and revise or escalate. Do not record an unobserved improvement.

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Health education and continuing care

Teach safe handling, aids, feeding plan and accessible participation in school and daily activities.

Transition only after clinical readiness is confirmed. Reconcile medicines, check access and caregiver support, and document who will review the patient and when.

Urgent warning signs

New swallowing/respiratory difficulty, seizures, pain or sudden loss of function needs review rather than attribution to the diagnosis alone.

Evaluation and conclusion

For each goal, document met, partly met or not met using observed evidence and the review time. Reassess and revise if progress is inadequate. Individual assessment, prioritized care and coordinated review guide this topic.

Quick Revision

- Early non-progressive brain injury affects motor control; associated needs vary widely.

- Priority concerns: Movement limited by weakness, discomfort or restriction; Daily self-care needs exceed current ability; Difficulty swallowing with possible aspiration; Learning needs about the condition and care plan.

- New swallowing/respiratory difficulty, seizures, pain or sudden loss of function needs review rather than attribution to the diagnosis alone.

- Teach safe handling, aids, feeding plan and accessible participation in school and daily activities.

Exam / viva: Which finding changes the order of priorities, and what must be escalated immediately?

References

Nursing Fundamentals, 2e - Ernstmeyer & Christman (editors), Open RN / WisTech Open, 2024
https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/nursingfundamentals/

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Health conditions A to Z: external further reading - NHS
https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/

Nursing Pharmacology, 2e - Ernstmeyer & Christman (editors), Open RN / WisTech Open, 2023
https://wtcs.pressbooks.pub/pharmacology2e/

B.Sc. Nursing curriculum and regulatory notifications - Indian Nursing Council
https://www.indiannursingcouncil.org/gazette-notification

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