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Nephrotic syndrome in childhood 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: Swollen eyelids, reduced energy and caregiver concern about urine changes.

Objective findings and required checks: Edema and weight gain; urine protein and infection risk are monitored.

Physical examination and investigations: Review urine protein, weight, fluid balance, albumin, renal tests and blood pressure.

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

Clinical focus and pathophysiology

Nephrotic syndrome in childhood: Increased glomerular protein loss lowers plasma oncotic pressure and contributes to edema.

Medical / surgical management

Follow the pediatric renal plan for fluid/salt advice, edema assessment and infection surveillance.

Illustrative drug and treatment study

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Medicine / treatment	Purpose	Nursing checks
Prescribed corticosteroid	Treat selected nephrotic conditions	Monitor infection, glucose, blood pressure and adherence
prescribed diuretic	Manage selected edema	Monitor circulation, electrolytes and renal function.

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 breathlessness, swelling and recent weight gain. Assess: Monitor edema, respiratory findings, weight, intake/output and electrolytes.	Fluid accumulation affecting comfort or function. Possible factors: impaired fluid handling or excess retention. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: No progression of respiratory distress or edema occurs during the observation period. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Explains prescribed fluid, salt, weight-monitoring and follow-up instructions.	1. Use consistent weighing and intake/output records. Rationale: Comparable measurements help identify fluid trends. 2. Assess respiratory changes and elevate the head of the bed if tolerated. Rationale: Pulmonary fluid accumulation may compromise breathing. 3. Implement only prescribed fluid limits and diuretic treatment; monitor renal function and electrolytes. Rationale: Treatment must balance fluid removal with circulation and electrolyte safety. 4. Follow the pediatric renal plan for fluid/salt advice, edema assessment and infection surveillance. Rationale: Increased glomerular protein loss lowers plasma oncotic pressure and contributes to edema. 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 about exposure, wound symptoms and recent invasive devices. Assess: Inspect relevant sites and monitor systemic findings and investigation trends.	Vulnerability to infection or worsening infection. Possible factors: disrupted barriers, exposure or reduced host defence. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: Aseptic care is maintained and any new signs of infection are escalated promptly. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Demonstrates relevant hygiene and explains the infection-prevention plan.	1. Use hand hygiene and risk-based standard or transmission precautions. Rationale: Interrupting transmission protects the patient, staff and other patients. 2. Review invasive device need with the team and maintain indicated aseptic care. Rationale: Unnecessary devices and barrier breaks increase infection exposure. 3. Monitor for systemic deterioration and administer prescribed antimicrobials on schedule. Rationale: Early escalation and timely indicated treatment reduce avoidable harm.	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 discomfort, usual mobility and ability to reposition. Assess: Inspect skin, pressure points, wound characteristics and moisture exposure.	Skin damage or vulnerability to pressure-related injury. Possible factors: pressure, moisture, impaired sensation or tissue injury. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: Skin is protected and existing damage shows no avoidable deterioration. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Patient or caregiver demonstrates the individualized skin-protection plan.	1. Assess skin and pressure risk using the local tool and clinical judgment. Rationale: Risk identification guides targeted prevention. 2. Individualize repositioning, heel offloading and pressure redistribution. Rationale: Reducing sustained pressure and shear protects tissue perfusion. 3. Use appropriate wound care and moisture management; refer for nutrition or specialist advice when needed. Rationale: Healing requires local protection and support for underlying contributors.	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 what the learner already knows and wants to understand. Assess: Use teach-back or demonstration to identify specific gaps.	Learning needs about the condition and care plan. Possible factors: new information, complex treatment or limited prior teaching. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: 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.	1. Assess language, literacy, hearing, vision and preferred learning method. Rationale: Accessible teaching improves understanding. 2. Teach a few 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 home monitoring only as instructed, medicine safety, infection reporting and renal follow-up. Rationale: Condition-specific teaching connects the treatment plan to safe continuing care.	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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Health education and continuing care

Teach home monitoring only as instructed, medicine safety, infection reporting and renal follow-up.

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

Fever with abdominal pain, breathing difficulty, reduced urine or signs of thrombosis requires urgent review.

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

- Increased glomerular protein loss lowers plasma oncotic pressure and contributes to edema.

- Priority concerns: Fluid accumulation affecting comfort or function; Vulnerability to infection or worsening infection; Skin damage or vulnerability to pressure-related injury; Learning needs about the condition and care plan.

- Fever with abdominal pain, breathing difficulty, reduced urine or signs of thrombosis requires urgent review.

- Teach home monitoring only as instructed, medicine safety, infection reporting and renal follow-up.

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/

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

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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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