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Normal antenatal assessment Initial assessment

Midwifery & O.G. 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: Asks about nutrition, normal discomforts and when to seek help.

Objective findings and required checks: Maternal and fetal assessment is performed according to gestation and the antenatal plan.

Physical examination and investigations: Review history, blood pressure, growth/gestation, urine and blood tests and screening offered under current local guidance.

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

Clinical focus and pathophysiology

Normal antenatal assessment: Pregnancy produces cardiovascular, metabolic and anatomical adaptations requiring ongoing assessment.

Medical / surgical management

Provide person-centred antenatal assessment, education, indicated preventive care and a documented follow-up plan.

Illustrative drug and treatment study

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Medicine / treatment	Purpose	Nursing checks
Prescribed antenatal supplements	Support identified preventive or nutritional needs	Verify regimen, adherence and side effects
vaccination where indicated	Provide pregnancy-appropriate prevention	Follow the current national guidance.

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 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. Provide person-centred antenatal assessment, education, indicated preventive care and a documented follow-up plan. Rationale: Pregnancy produces cardiovascular, metabolic and anatomical adaptations requiring ongoing assessment. 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 usual diet, recent intake, weight change and food access. Assess: Assess growth or weight trends, intake record and relevant nutritional findings.	Nutritional intake below current needs. Possible factors: poor appetite, increased requirements or feeding difficulty. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: Tolerates the agreed nutrition plan without new complications. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Explains the individualized meal or feeding plan and follow-up arrangements.	1. Assess nutritional risk and confirm swallowing safety and any fasting order. Rationale: The appropriate feeding route depends on clinical safety. 2. Offer suitable small meals or prescribed feeds with dietitian input when indicated. Rationale: Individualized support improves intake and nutrient adequacy. 3. Monitor tolerance, weight or growth and metabolic findings where required. Rationale: Progress and complications guide adjustment of support.	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 worries the patient most and how they prefer to receive information. Assess: Observe distress, attention and ability to engage without making assumptions.	Emotional distress affecting participation in care. Possible factors: uncertainty, symptoms or unfamiliar treatment. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time: Identifies one immediate concern and participates in an agreed next step. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Describes helpful support and coping strategies before transition of care.	1. Listen without judgment and acknowledge specific concerns. Rationale: Feeling heard supports trust and therapeutic engagement. 2. Explain one step at a time and use teach-back with permission. Rationale: Manageable information reduces uncertainty and checks understanding. 3. Offer culturally appropriate support and refer when distress persists or safety concerns arise. Rationale: Additional support may be needed beyond bedside reassurance.	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 missed treatment, side effects, cost and beliefs without blame.	Difficulty sustaining the agreed treatment plan. Possible	Short-term: After the first indicated intervention, at the documented review time:	1. Explore the reason for difficulty before suggesting solutions. Rationale: Different barriers require different responses. 2. Reconcile medicines and	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
Assess: Review the medication list, refill access and ability to follow instructions.	factors: treatment burden, access barriers or uncertainty. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Identifies one practical barrier and agrees on a feasible solution. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Has an affordable treatment and follow-up plan verified with the team.	involve pharmacy or community services when needed. Rationale: A simpler, accurate plan can reduce avoidable errors. 3. Agree reminders, support and follow-up using shared decision-making. Rationale: Plans are more sustainable when they fit the person's circumstances.	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 antenatal attendance, nutrition, birth preparation and gestation-appropriate warning signs.

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

Bleeding, severe headache/visual symptoms, severe abdominal pain, fluid leakage or reduced fetal movement when applicable needs prompt maternity assessment.

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

- Pregnancy produces cardiovascular, metabolic and anatomical adaptations requiring ongoing assessment.

- Priority concerns: Learning needs about the condition and care plan; Nutritional intake below current needs; Emotional distress affecting participation in care; Difficulty sustaining the agreed treatment plan.

- Bleeding, severe headache/visual symptoms, severe abdominal pain, fluid leakage or reduced fetal movement when applicable needs prompt maternity assessment.

- Teach antenatal attendance, nutrition, birth preparation and gestation-appropriate warning signs.

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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Maternal-Newborn Nursing: external further reading - OpenStax / Rice University
https://openstax.org/books/maternal-newborn-nursing/pages/preface

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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