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Bowel pattern disrupted by illness or reduced activity Constipation with immobility

Nursing Foundation | Focused diagnosis-based template

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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: Hard stools, straining and no comfortable bowel movement for several days.

Objective findings and required checks: Reduced activity and low intake; abdominal examination has no acute red flags in this scenario.

Physical examination and investigations: Review bowel chart, abdominal findings, medication list and investigations if obstruction or secondary causes are suspected.

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

Clinical focus and pathophysiology

Constipation with immobility: Reduced mobility, altered intake and some medicines slow stool transit.

Medical / surgical management

Exclude red flags; support privacy, safe activity, appropriate fluids and the prescribed bowel regimen.

Illustrative drug and treatment study

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Medicine / treatment	Purpose	Nursing checks
Prescribed osmotic laxative	Soften stool and support bowel movement	Monitor response, diarrhea and hydration
prescribed stool softener	Support comfort when indicated	Review ongoing need and bowel pattern.

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

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Focused nursing-problem template

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 stool frequency, consistency, pain and usual bowel pattern. Assess: Assess abdominal findings, bowel records and signs of obstruction or dehydration.	Bowel pattern disrupted by illness or reduced activity. Possible factors: altered intake, motility or medicine effects. Validate against the patient's assessment.	Short-term: At the next patient-specific reassessment: Bowel-related discomfort decreases without new red-flag findings. Longer-term: Before the clinically approved transition or agreed follow-up: Describes an appropriate bowel routine and when to seek review.	1. Assess abdominal red flags before routine bowel measures. Rationale: Severe pain, distension or vomiting may indicate urgent pathology. 2. Support privacy, mobility and the prescribed food and fluid plan. Rationale: An individualized routine supports comfortable elimination. 3. Administer prescribed treatment and document stool response. Rationale: Response monitoring helps prevent undertreatment and adverse effects. 4. Exclude red flags; support privacy, safe activity, appropriate fluids and the prescribed bowel regimen. Rationale: Reduced mobility, altered intake and some medicines slow stool transit. 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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Apply this template

Complete with verified data: assessment cues; supported actual problem or risk; measurable outcome and review time; selected authorized interventions and rationale; observed response and next action.

Subjective / objective cues: _____

Patient-specific target and review time: _____

Evaluation evidence and next action: _____

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Health education and continuing care

Discuss a regular bowel routine, food and fluid advice suited to the condition and avoiding unsupervised laxative escalation.

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

Severe abdominal pain, vomiting, marked distension or inability to pass flatus needs 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

- Reduced mobility, altered intake and some medicines slow stool transit.
- Priority concerns: Bowel pattern disrupted by illness or reduced activity.
- Severe abdominal pain, vomiting, marked distension or inability to pass flatus needs urgent review.
- Discuss a regular bowel routine, food and fluid advice suited to the condition and avoiding unsupervised laxative escalation.

Exam / viva: What assessment evidence supports this problem, and what measurable result would demonstrate improvement?

References

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

Nursing Pharmacology, 2e - Ernstmeyer & Christman (editors), Open RN / WisTech Open, 2023

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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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