Nursing 111
Assessment

Class Activity: Observation Skills in General Physical Survey

**Description:** In this module the concept of assessment is introduced. This exercise is designed to focus on the skill of observation utilized in a general physical survey.

**Average Completion Time:**
- Instruction to each student & interaction time: 15 minutes
- Completion of Observation Form: 10 minutes
- Discussion: 20 minutes

**Placement:** Module 1 Assessment

**Set-Up & Equipment:**
- Acute care/Adult Health patient room (if more than one in an open Nursing Arts Lab setting there needs to be enough distance so conversations are not overheard)
- “Client” in bed, HOB in semi-fowler’s position (can be instructor or a student who has already completed the exercise)
- “Client” does need an ID armband of some kind
- “Client” should have an IV infusion and a foley drainage bag on the bedframe.

Students should be placed in groups reflective of number of “client rooms”. Four is the minimal working number. One student per “client room”.

Separate room is necessary for student discussion away from the “client” rooms.

Pre-printed Observational Log cards (one per student)

**Student Instructions:**
1. Visit the client’s room and interact with the client as you would naturally do in a client care situation. The interaction will last for about ten minutes.
2. The interaction can focus on how the client is doing/feeling today. The “client” will help with the flow of the interaction as the purpose of this exercise is for the student to gain skill in the observation of client and environment and not communication skills.
3. At the end of the ten minutes complete an observational form provided by the instructional team.
4. No discussion of the visitation or comments written on the observational form is permitted.
5. When all students in each group has completed the assignment, the group will meet to discuss the follow-up questions.
Follow-up Discussion:
1. Each student to introduce themselves to their group and provide a brief summary of your experience (if any) as a member of the health care team (years of experience, job, type of unit/facility)
2. Looking at the responses that you wrote on your observation documentation form, discuss what you observed during your interaction with your client.
3. On the whiteboard or poster board, list the following (instructor)
   a. physiological aspects of the client that were observed
   b. behavioral aspects of the client that were observed
   c. environmental aspects of the client area that were observed
   d. for each of the aspects recorded, identify the observed data that all/majority of students noted
   e. list the observations that were recorded by only one student.

Discussion Questions:
1. What were the easiest aspects of the client situation that were easy to observe and record?
2. What were aspects that were more difficult to observe and describe.
3. Look at the unique observations: what made the student note this or what made it stand out in their memory enough to record that particular unique observation?
4. In review, what new aspects will you note to observe in a client care situation?
5. Discuss how a more holistic survey will enhance exemplary client care.

Observational Log:
(see sample)