

PHYSICAL ASSESSMENT EXAMINATION

Nursing Assessment

1. Part of Nursing Process
2. Nurses use physical assessment skills to:
 - a) Obtain baseline data and expand the data base from which subsequent phases of the nursing process can evolve
 - b) To identify and manage a variety of patient problems (actual and potential)
 - c) Evaluate the effectiveness of nursing care
 - d) Enhance the nurse-patient relationship
 - e) Make clinical judgments

Gathering Data

Subjective data - Said by the client (S)

Objective data - Observed by the nurse (O)

Document: SOAPIER

Assessment Techniques:

The order of techniques is as follows (Inspect – Palpation – Percussion - Auscultation) except for the abdomen which is Inspect – Auscultation – Percuss – Palpate.

A. Inspection – critical observation **"always first"**

1. Take time to "observe" with eyes, ears, nose (all senses)
2. Use good lighting
3. Look at color, shape, symmetry, position
4. Observe for odors from skin, breath, wound
5. Develop and use nursing instincts
6. Inspection is done alone and in combination with other assessment techniques

B. Palpation – light and deep touch

1. Back of hand (dorsal aspect) to assess skin temperature
2. Fingers to assess texture, moisture, areas of tenderness
3. Assess size, shape, and consistency of lesions and organs
4. Deep = 5-8 cm (2-3") deep; Light = 1 cm deep

C. Percussion – sounds produced by striking body surface

1. Produces different notes depending on underlying mass (dull, resonant, flat, tympanic)
2. Used to determine size and shape of underlying structures by establishing their borders and indicates if tissue is air-filled, fluid-filled, or solid
3. Action is performed in the wrist.

D. Auscultation – listening to sounds produced by the body

1. Direct auscultation – sounds are audible without stethoscope
2. Indirect auscultation – uses stethoscope
3. Know how to use stethoscope properly *[practice skill]*
4. Fine-tune your ears to pick up subtle changes *[practice skill]*
5. Describe sound characteristics (frequency, pitch intensity, duration, quality) *[practice skill]*

Example Nursing Assessment Guide

Howard S. Rowland



Example Nursing Assessment Guide:

Decoding **Example Nursing Assessment Guide**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

In an era characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its ability to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "**Example Nursing Assessment Guide**," a mesmerizing literary creation penned with a celebrated wordsmith, readers embark on an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring affect our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book is central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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