

### Competency Checklist

<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Employee Name:</b>	
<b>Preceptor/Evaluator's Name</b>	
<b>Competency:</b>	<b>Vital Sign Assessment - Temperature</b>

#### INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE LEVEL SUMMARY

How Met		Level of Competency	
O	Direct Observation/Return Demonstration	1	Below expected standards
V	Verbalization/Discussion	2	Fully meets standards
T	Test	3	Well above standards. May precept peers
NA	Not applicable		

If overall performance or competency is rated below the minimum competency level of 2, that performance or competency must be reassessed within 30 days of this review.

The employee demonstrates skills and competence in the following:	How Met	Level of Competency 1 2 3	Evaluated by:
<b>Goal:</b> The patient's temperature is assessed accurately without injury and the patient experiences only minimal discomfort.			
A. Gather Equipment/Supplies: - Electronic Thermometer - Lubricant (If assessing temperature rectally) - Gloves			
B. Assess temperature via one of the following routes:			
C. Measuring a Tympanic Membrane Temperature			
1. Push the "on" button and wait for the "ready" signal on the unit.			
2. Slide disposable cover onto the tympanic probe.			
3. Insert the probe snugly into the external ear using gentle but firm pressure, angling the thermometer toward the patient's jaw line. Pull pinna up and back to straighten the ear canal in an adult.			
4. Activate the unit by pushing the trigger button. The reading is immediate (usually within 2 seconds). Note the reading.			
D. Assessing Oral Temperature			
1. Cover thermometer probe with disposable probe cover and slide it on until it snaps into place.			
2. Place the probe beneath the patient's tongue in the posterior sublingual pocket. Ask the patient to close his or her lips around the probe.			
3. Continue to hold the probe until you hear a beep. Note the temperature reading.			
4. Remove the probe from the patient's mouth.			
E. Assessing Rectal Temperature			
1. Adjust the bed to a comfortable working height, usually elbow height of the caregiver. Put on nonsterile gloves.			
2. Assist the patient to a side-lying position. Pull back the covers enough to expose only the buttocks.			
3. Remove the rectal probe from within the recording unit of the electronic			

thermometer. Cover the probe with a disposable probe cover and slide it into place until it snaps in place.			
4. Lubricate about 1" of the probe with a water-soluble lubricant.			
5. Insert the thermometer probe into the anus about 1.5" in an adult or 1" in a child.			
6. Hold the probe in place until you hear a beep, then carefully remove the probe. Note the temperature reading on the display.			
7. Using toilet tissue, wipe the anus of any feces or excess lubricant. Dispose of the toilet tissue. Remove gloves and discard them.			
<b>F. Assessing Axillary Temperature</b>			
1. Move the patient's clothing to expose only the axilla.			
2. Remove the probe from the recording unit of the electronic thermometer. Place a disposable probe cover on by sliding it on and snapping it securely.			
3. Place the end of the probe in the center of the axilla. Have the patient bring the arm down and close to the body.			
4. Hold the probe in place until you hear a beep, and then carefully remove the probe. Note the temperature reading.			
G. Dispose of the probe cover by holding the probe over an appropriate waste receptacle and pushing the release button.			
H. Place the bed in the lowest position and elevate rails as needed. Leave the patient clean and comfortable.			
I. Return the electronic thermometer to the charging unit.			

Employee is competent to perform the above tasks independently and without supervision

Employee's level of competence is below 2. Reassess competency on: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature	
Evaluator's Signature	