



IN THE KNOW

Developing Top-Notch CNA's, One Inservice at a Time

A Client Care Module: Recognizing & Reporting Abnormal Observations

SAVING CARRIE JANE

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Carrie Jane is an 83 year old woman with a collection of health problems. She has diabetes, high blood pressure, and a permanent colostomy. In addition, she just had hip replacement surgery. You are assigned to care for her during her rehabilitation.

On your first visit with Carrie Jane, you observe a slightly overweight woman with a good understanding of her diabetes and high blood pressure. She eats a healthy diet, takes her medications as prescribed and is able to manage her diseases effectively.

One week later, Carrie Jane has lost some weight without trying, her energy level is low, her blood sugar level stays high throughout the day, and you notice a reddened, sore area on the top of her foot where the shoe rubs.

You report what you observe right away. The nurse and a dietitian arrive to assess Carrie Jane's diet and medication. A special wound nurse is assigned to prevent the pressure sore on Carrie's foot from progressing.

Your careful observation and reporting have set in motion the intervention needed to keep Carrie Jane healthy while under your care.

Without your careful attention, Carrie Jane's unintentional weight loss would have continued, her elevated blood sugar would have further damaged her body and the pressure sore that was developing could have progressed to a dangerous wound that may have only been resolved by amputation.

One of the primary roles of the nursing assistant is to collect and communicate information. That information is collected by observing clients and communicated by reporting to the nurse and/or documenting in the client's chart.



Keep reading to learn more about recognizing and reporting abnormal observations. This important role ensures the best possible outcome for your client when changes or new developments occur.

WHAT I KNOW!

Take a minute to jot down a few things you already know about abnormal observations before reading this inservice.
