

Master CNA Bedpan Skills Test

Perfect the bedpan technique that challenges even experienced professionals. This checklist addresses orientation, placement, and dignity concerns that cause testing anxiety.

Critical Reality Check

87% of healthcare workers report bedpans tip or spill sometimes. 62.6% find placement "tough or very difficult." Backward placement is the #1 automatic failure.

Bedpan Orientation Memory Aid

Standard: WIDER END → Buttocks Fracture: FLAT END → Buttocks, Handle → Feet
Remember: "Handle faces feet for easy removal"

Step 1: Preparation & Communication

- Introduce yourself clearly and address patient by name
- Explain procedure: "I'll help you with a bedpan and keep you covered"
- Gather supplies: bedpan, protective pad, toilet paper, wipes, gloves
- Wash hands thoroughly and don clean gloves
- Ensure privacy with curtains or door closure

Step 2: Safe Positioning Setup

- Adjust bed to waist height for proper body mechanics
- Lower head of bed completely flat before placement
- Lock bed wheels for safety during movement
- Place protective pad under patient (Prometric requirement)

Orientation = Make or Break

Backward bedpan placement causes automatic skill failure. Standard bedpans: wider end to buttocks. Fracture pans: flat end to buttocks, handle toward feet. Practice until automatic!

Step 3: Proper Bedpan Placement

- Verify correct bedpan orientation before placement
- For mobile patients: ask to bend knees and lift hips
- For immobile patients: use log-roll method safely
- Center patient's buttocks completely over opening
- Check alignment immediately after placement
- Remove gloves after placement, wash hands, don new gloves

Step 4: Patient Comfort & Privacy

- Raise head of bed to semi-Fowler's position (30-45 degrees)
- Provide toilet paper within patient's reach
- Ensure call light is accessible
- Keep patient covered with blankets for dignity
- Step away to provide complete privacy during use

- Inform patient to signal when finished

Step 5: Removal & Cleanup Process

- Return promptly when patient signals completion
- Don fresh gloves before removal and cleaning
- Lower head of bed flat for safe removal
- Remove bedpan carefully, avoiding spills
- Measure output if required by your testing provider
- Provide perineal care and patient hygiene as needed
- Position patient comfortably and ensure safety

Provider-Specific Requirements

Provider	Key Requirements	Output Measurement	Critical Elements
NNAAP	Multiple glove changes, privacy critical	Not required	Missing any = auto fail
Prometric	Protective pad mandatory	Not required	Indirect Care scoring
Headmaster	Combined with output measurement	±25ml accuracy required	80% + all key steps

Step 6: Final Safety & Documentation

- Dispose of bedpan contents properly
- Clean and sanitize bedpan according to facility protocol
- Remove gloves correctly and perform hand hygiene
- Lower bed to safe position
- Place call light within reach
- Document procedure and observations if required
- Thank patient for their cooperation

Dignity-Preserving Communication

Use matter-of-fact tone without excessive apologies. Say "I know this isn't comfortable, but I'll make it as easy as possible." Professional efficiency + genuine care = patient comfort.

Prevent These Automatic Failures

Backward placement, inadequate centering, forgetting bed wheel locks, skipping privacy steps, improper glove usage timing. These errors cause immediate skill failure regardless of other performance.