

Master CNA Indirect Care - The Foundation of ALL Skills

Achieve the 81.8% first-attempt pass rate by mastering indirect care protocols that apply to EVERY skill on your test. These "basic" practices prevent more test failures than technical skill errors.

Why Indirect Care Determines Your Success

Indirect care prevents 388,000 healthcare deaths annually. Students fail more on these "basic" protocols than technical skills. Master this foundation and excel at every skill on your test.

Post-COVID Testing Updates

All providers now require masks during testing, enhanced cleaning procedures, and many states have added PPE demonstration skills. Enhanced Barrier Precautions are standard evaluation criteria.

Critical Infection Control Failure

Never declare "finished" while wearing contaminated gloves. Remove gloves properly, perform hand hygiene, THEN complete your care. This single error causes more failures than technical mistakes.

Remember: This Applies to EVERY Skill

Indirect care isn't a separate skill - it's the professional foundation for EVERY procedure you'll perform. Master these protocols and you'll excel at every skill on your test.

Step 1: Universal Opening Routine (Before ANY Skill)

- Knock and announce yourself before entering
- Greet resident by name and introduce yourself with your role
- Explain the procedure clearly before beginning
- Ensure privacy by closing curtains or doors
- Perform hand hygiene before any patient contact

Step 2: Communication & Explanation Throughout

- Ask about comfort and preferences before starting
- Maintain respectful conversation during care
- Explain what you're doing as you perform each step
- Check for resident responses and comfort throughout

Step 3: Infection Control Practices

- Follow proper hand hygiene timing throughout procedure
- Use gloves appropriately and change when indicated
- Prevent contamination of clean supplies and surfaces
- Remove gloves properly without self-contamination
- Demonstrate PPE skills when required (Headmaster post-COVID requirement)

Step 4: Privacy & Dignity Protection

- Keep resident appropriately covered during care
- Use respectful, professional language (avoid "honey," "sweetie")
- Maintain confidentiality and HIPAA compliance
- Respect personal space and cultural preferences

Step 5: Environmental Safety Monitoring

- Check bed positioning and height for safety
- Ensure wheelchair or bed brakes are locked during transfers
- Keep equipment and supplies organized and accessible
- Monitor for safety hazards throughout procedure
- Maintain clear pathways and organized workspace

Step 6: Universal Closing Routine (After ANY Skill)

- Remove PPE/gloves properly and perform hand hygiene
- Lower bed to safe position (CRITICAL failure point if missed)
- Place call light within resident's reach
- Ask about final comfort needs
- Ensure resident is safe and comfortable before leaving
- Clean up workspace and equipment appropriately

Step 7: NNAAP Enhanced Barrier Precautions

- Integrate Enhanced Barrier Precautions as standard protocol
- Follow standardized evaluation criteria for critical elements

Step 8: Prometric Systematic Integration

- Demonstrate step sequence accuracy in complex procedures
- Maintain consistent indirect care throughout skill demonstration
- Focus on safety protocol maintenance under observation

Step 9: Headmaster PPE Requirements

- Master "Donning PPE (gown and gloves)" skill demonstration
- Follow enhanced infection control evaluation standards
- Adapt to state-specific protocol variations

Step 10: Critical Failure Prevention

- ■ NEVER declare "finished" while wearing contaminated gloves
- ■ NEVER leave bed elevated after completing care
- ■ NEVER place call light out of resident's reach

- ■ NEVER skip hand hygiene at designated timing points