

Module 13

PATIENT SAFETY

Objectives

- At the end of the module, the nurse aide will be able to:
 1. Identify common causes of home accidents and safety measures that could prevent home accidents
 2. Describe the role of the home care aide in fall prevention and responding to falls
 3. Describe equipment related accidents and the role of the home care aide in preventing those accidents
 4. Identify signs and symptoms of caregiver burnout
 5. Describe various forms of possible abuse and explain what to do in the case of suspected abuse of a patient

Module 13-A

FALL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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Patient Safety

- Falls are the most common type of accident for the elderly home care patient.
- There are many factors that can contribute to falls.



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Patient Safety

- Handout #1 – CDC Falls Fact Sheet



Patient Safety

- Handout #2 – Falls in NC



Patient Safety

- What are some safety measures that help prevent falls?



Patient Safety

- Patients could become victims of other types of household accidents as well.
- Fires and burns



Patient Safety

- Unintentional poisoning



Patient Safety

- Carbon monoxide



Patient Safety

- Handout #3 – Home Safety Assessment



Patient Safety

- Activity #1 – How Many Hazards Can You Spot?



Module 13-B

EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Patient Safety

- Safely using equipment with a patient can aid in reducing accidents and falls
- Canes and walkers
- Wheelchairs



Patient Safety

- Side rails on beds



Patient Safety

- Hand rails and grab bars



Patient Safety

- Activity #2 – Case Scenarios



Patient Safety

- Activity #3 – Safety Concerns



Module 13-C

PATIENT ABUSE

Patient Safety

- Caregiver burnout is more than feelings of stress. It encompasses the physical, emotional, and/or spiritual exhaustion that can seem to take over a person.



Patient Safety

- It is important to look for signs that the patient's other family caregivers may be feeling burned out.
- Report concerns to your supervisor.



Patient Safety

- Knowing the signs of abuse is important for the home care aide.



Patient Safety

- Physical abuse



Patient Safety

- Emotional abuse



Patient Safety

- Neglect and abandonment



Patient Safety

- Financial exploitation



Patient Safety

- Sexual abuse



Patient Safety

- If a home care aide feels that some sort of abuse is happening in the patient's home, the first step is to talk to a supervisor.
- In most cases, the local **Adult Protective Services (APS)** or **Child Protective Services (CPS)** department will be called.
- For the safety of your patient, it is important to let people who are trained in these matters deal with it appropriately.

- As a home care aide, you will have many opportunities to assist your patient with living in a safe environment. If you ever have concerns regarding any part of your patient's safety, communicate openly with your supervisor so that you are able to deliver the safest, most effective care possible.