

Section: Division of Nursing
Approval: _____

* PROCEDURE *

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HACKETTSTOWN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

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MATERNAL SERVICES/4SOUTH
(Scope)

TITLE: POSTPARTUM PATIENT CARE AFTER RECOVERY PERIOD

PURPOSE: To outline procedure to provide continuity of care for the postpartum patient (NSD).

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Patient will receive care and instruction, progressing daily, to ensure satisfactory care of herself and infant after discharge.

EQUIPMENT: 1. Specipan
2. Maternity Patient Kit

CONTENT: PROCEDURE

KEY POINTS

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| 1. Patient is brought to postpartum room after recovery period or remains in LDR. | Wheelchair or stretcher bed can be used. Inform patient of room and bed number. Patient may be ambulatory if able. |
| 2. Assist patient into bed. | Protect bed with chux. |
| 3. If room is changed, instruct patient how to operate her electric bed, overhead table, light switches, speaker, and use of closet and shelf space. Pull up side rails x 2. | Be sure patient understands all instructions. |
| 4. Assist with unpacking as needed by patient. Provide care, explain maternity kit. | |
| 5. Offer patient fluids. | Be sure overbed table is near patient and she has access to fluids. |
| 6. Instruct patient to wash hands with soap and water when handling baby. | Impress upon patient importance of cleanliness. |
| 7. Refer to 6160.006a Perineal Care. | Instruct the patient in her own personal hygiene to prevent infection and provide comfort. |
| 8. Put specipan in toilet and explain that we need to measure first void. | To be able to assess bladder emptying and avoid excessive bleeding or boggy uterus |
| 9. Ask patient for questions on instructions. | Make sure patient is comfortable before leaving room. |