

HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Division of Nursing

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TITLE: **FOCUS CHARTING**

1. Focus charting is a format for organizing patient information in the narrative section of the cart and allowing quick data retrieval.
2. Focus charting uses a column format to separate topic words or phrases from the body of the notes.
3. The following categories organize information in the patient care notes:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>Time</u>		

- a. Data: Subjective and/or objective information supporting the stated focus or describing observation at the time of significant events.
 - b. Action: Nursing interventions - past, present, future.
 - c. Response: Description of patient's response to medical or nursing care including information in all three categories (Data, Action, Response). Each entry may or may not be relevant.
4. Patient foci, identified through nursing assessment, are used with the patient care Flow Sheet to document the current status of the patient, progress toward established goals and the patient response to interventions.
 5. Several uses of the **FOCUS** column include:
 - a. A current patient concern or behavior.
 - b. A nursing diagnosis.
 - c. An acute change in the patient's condition.
 - d. A significant event in the patient's care (i.e.: admission, discharge, transfer).
 - e. A sign or symptom of possible importance to the nursing and or medical treatment plan (i.e.: fever, constipation).
 - f. A key word reference from a flow sheet.
 - g. A key word or phrase indicating compliance with a standard of care or with hospital policy (i.e.: shift assessment, diabetic education, return from surgery).
 - h. Identify all members of the patient's care team making entries.
 - i. A few medical diagnoses, most often in Step Down.

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6. A minimum of one focus note is to be written each shift.
7. Attempt to utilize the same **focus** word throughout the patient care note when referring to the same focus.
8. Marjory Gordon's Functional Health Patterns provide a helpful format for gathering patient information on and assessing the patient which results in the identification of nursing diagnosis and patient focus.
9. The five steps nursing process relates to focus charting this way:
 - a. Data gathering = data (or flow sheet)
 - b. Problem identifying or labeling = focus
 - c. Planning = care plan
 - d. Intervention = action (or flow sheet)
 - e. Evaluating outcomes = response