

Section: Division of Nursing  
Approval: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PROCEDURE**  
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**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

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**TITLE: PEDIATRIC LUMBAR PUNCTURE**

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**PURPOSE:** To outline the nursing steps in obtaining spinal fluid for diagnostic tests.

**SUPPORTIVE DATA:** Explain purpose of procedure to parents and child if old enough to understand. Allow parents to stay in room if appropriate. Procedure should be performed in treatment room.

**EQUIPMENT LIST:**

1. Pediatric Lumbar Puncture Set (in exam room)
2. Sterile Gloves
3. Betadine Solution
4. Bandaid
5. Overbed Table
6. Gooseneck Lamp
7. Specific Doctor's Cardex (kept at nurses' station)

<p><b>CONTENT:</b></p>	<p><u>PROCEDURE STEPS:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Assemble lumbar puncture tray on over-bed table using sterile technique.</li><li>2. Pour Betadine into plastic opening on tray.</li><li>3. Open sterile gloves for doctor.</li><li>4. Turn gooseneck lamp on and position close to bed.</li><li>5. Position child according to instructions of doctor (see doctors' cardex).</li><li>6. Assist doctor as needed.</li><li>7. When procedure is completed, lie child flat in bed.</li><li>8. Label all specimens with patient name and send with proper slips to Lab.</li><li>9. Dispose of all equipment properly (glass and sharps in appropriate containers).</li></ol>	<p><u>KEY POINTS:</u></p> <p>Do not put too close to child to prevent burns.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. If child is going to be on exam table, place pillow for comfort under head or place child against nurse's chest for smaller child or infant, hold child securely.</li><li>b. If child is in fetal position, hold securely under knees and neck, to allow spine to protrude.</li></ol>
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**DOCUMENTATION:** 10. Document procedure on chart and how patient tolerated it. Document that specimens were sent to the Lab.