

## Night-float Competencies

(Please also see Newborn nursery competencies for details.)

**Competency 1: Patient Care.** Provide family-centered patient care that is development- and age-appropriate, compassionate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

In the newborn nursery:

1. Obtain and interpret from the families and other healthcare providers important information relevant to the newborn, including the maternal medical, prenatal, family, and obstetrical history.
2. Assess newborns, using the history, physical exam, and routine laboratory screening procedures and provide counseling for intervention as indicated.
3. Provide the routine care of normal newborns related to breast or bottle feeding, newborn screening, hearing screening, eye prophylaxis, Vitamin K administration, Hepatitis B vaccination, and bilirubin screening.
4. Understand the current recommendations for maternal Group B streptococcus screening and evaluation of exposed newborns.
5. Understand the normal physiologic changes in the neonatal transition period, signs of abnormal responses, and possible strategies for intervention.
6. Demonstrate appropriate use of diagnostic tests and protocols for common neonatal problems such as hypoglycemia, fever/temperature instability, hyperbilirubinemia, polycythemia.
7. Provide anticipatory guidance and counseling to parents throughout the hospital stay and at the time of discharge.

When providing telephone triage:

8. Collect information completely and efficiently.
9. Apply clinical judgement and/or standardized algorithms in the management of an acute illness to make appropriate care recommendations and triage decisions.
10. Understand the parent's concerns in the context of their child's illness and determine an appropriate course of action.

**Competency 2: Medical Knowledge.** Understand the scope of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral knowledge needed by a pediatrician; demonstrate the ability to acquire, critically interpret, and apply this knowledge in patient care.

In the newborn nursery:

1. Recognize and describe the clinical significance of common newborn physical findings, and develop a strategy for evaluation and management.
2. Evaluate and appropriately treat newborns with commonly presenting newborn problems.
3. Understand the various methods of breast and bottle feeding in newborns.

When providing telephone triage:

4. Understand the presentation and clinical course of common pediatric problems and use this knowledge, along with standard algorithms, to give appropriate advice and make triage decisions.

**Competency 3: Communication Skills.** Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in information exchange and partnering with patients, their families, and professional associates.

In the newborn nursery:

1. Obtain, record, and present the history and physical examination including the maternal, obstetrical, and newborn history.
2. Explain to parents of a newborn their child's status, any abnormalities, and any necessary evaluation or follow-up.
3. Provide anticipatory guidance at discharge concerning normal newborn feeding patterns, normal newborn behavior, family adjustment, injury prevention, and access to medical services.
4. Demonstrate sensitivity on communicating with the parents of newborns regarding any problems, and how they may impact the family's life and future plans for the child.

When providing telephone triage:

5. Communicate effectively, recognizing the limitations of telephone interactions in obtaining and delivering difficult or complex information.
6. Provide necessary advice clearly, provide guidelines for recognizing worsening illness, and confirm that the parent agrees with and understands the plan and can adhere to the recommended follow-up.
7. Document the telephone encounter accurately, efficiently, and with appropriate details.

**Competency 4: Practice-based Learning and Improvement.** Demonstrate knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for continuous self-assessment, using scientific methods and evidence to investigate, evaluate, and improve one's patient care practice.

1. Identify and utilize standard guidelines and protocols for the evaluation and treatment of normal newborns in the nursery and for the evaluation of patients via telephone triage.
2. Use information technology to access and manage clinical information, perform online searches, and acquire knowledge of specific topics as they relate to the care of normal newborns in the nursery and problems that one encounters during telephone triage.
3. Identify personal learning needs, organize relevant information and resources for future reference, and plan for continuing acquisition of new data.

**Competency 5: Professionalism.** Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to diversity.

1. Display behaviors at all times that foster and reward the patients' trust in the physician, including appropriate dress, grooming, punctuality, honesty, courtesy, respect for patient confidentiality, and other norms of behavior in professional relationships with patients.
2. Be sensitive to the ethical and cultural differences that one may encounter in child rearing practices.
3. Respect confidentiality and privacy of patients.
4. Work as a member of the healthcare team in the newborn nursery.
5. Be an advocate for your patients' interests over your own personal interest while developing an appropriate balance between personal and professional beliefs and your obligation to your patients.

**Competency 6: System Based Practice.** Understand how to practice quality healthcare and advocate for patients within the context of the healthcare system.

1. Understand the impact of economic and health insurance issues on the care of newborns and patients that you encounter via telephone triage.
2. Interact well with primary care providers in order to ensure a smooth transition of newborns from the nursery to the outpatient clinic.
3. Understand the role of the various social and legal systems involved when a newborn has suspected drug exposure.