

FRAUDULENT CNA's CAN THEY HARM PATIENTS?

“Now look around a long term care facility, filled with fragile, elderly residents, most of them with brittle bones, impaired vision, impaired hearing, unsteady balance, often with added complication such as CVA or Parkinson’s disease. Add to this the normal forgetfulness of extreme old age, often compounded by the impaired judgment of dementia. You are looking at a building full of accidents waiting to happen.”

“Nursing Assistant Training Manual”

Below are *some* of the duties of a certified nurse assistant. Serious injury or death can result if these responsibilities are not discharged competently.

PROVIDE FIRST RESPONSE IN AN EMERGENCY

- < detect and appropriately respond to medical emergencies (e.g. cardiac arrest, stroke, insulin shock, respiratory arrest, hemorrhaging, etc)
- < evacuate patients from a fire area (including those who are non-ambulatory and/or connected to life support systems)
- < administer CPR
- < administer Heimlich maneuver

HELP TO PREVENT OR HEAL ILLNESS

- < observe and immediately report signs and symptoms indicating failing health (e.g. changes in patient’s skin, breathing, elimination, mobility, appetite, behavior, and signs of pain)
- < collect urine, stool, and sputum specimens (including those from HIV/hepatitis-infected patients)
- < accurately measure and record vital signs
- < read and follow treatment care plans

HELP TO PREVENT OR HEAL INJURY

- < use proper techniques to avoid injuring patients during lifting/transfers
- < properly use lifting/transfer equipment (e.g. wheelchairs and mechanical lifts)
- < properly use pressure-relieving devices to prevent/heal skin breakdowns (i.e. decubitus ulcers)
- < assist patient to ambulate and/or perform range of motion exercises
- < provide proper personal and dental hygiene to prevent infection

ENSURE INFECTION CONTROL

- < properly sanitize equipment
- < properly handle linens
- < proper disposal of items soiled with blood/body fluids

ENSURE PROPER NUTRITION

- < check meals for correct diet for the patient
- < feed patients who are unable to do so themselves
- < ensure that the patient is properly hydrated