

Developing a Restorative Nursing Program

What is restorative nursing?

Restorative nursing refers to nursing interventions that promote the resident's ability to adapt and adjust to living as independently and safely as possible and attain maximum functional potential. The restorative nursing program actively focuses on achieving and maintaining optimal physical, mental and psychosocial function.

Why is it important to implement a well-planned restorative nursing program?

The concept of restorative nursing actively focuses on optimal improvement of the resident's physical, mental and psychosocial functioning. Communication and documentation of resident progress is vital for the success of restorative programs.

Who is responsible for restorative care/programming?

These activities are carried out and supervised by members of the nursing staff. Other departmental staff may be assigned to work with specific residents.

The Purpose of a Restorative Nursing Program is to increase the patients' independence, promote safety, preserve function, increase self-esteem, promote improvement in function and minimize deterioration. Specific patient goals, objectives and interventions need to be measurable. A care plan outlining the program is required.

Restorative nursing programs are initiated when a resident is discharged from formalized physical, occupational, or speech rehabilitation therapy services. A resident may also be started on a restorative program when a restorative need arises during the course of a custodial stay when the patient is not a candidate for a more formalized therapy program.

To remain in a restorative nursing program, the resident must maintain or retain their level of functioning. In addition, nursing rehabilitation or restorative care must meet all of the following criteria:

- The individual problem must be clearly identified (ex. AROM, splint or brace assistance, transfer, walking, grooming, etc.).
- Measurable goals (objectives) and measurable interventions (actions) are clearly documented (care planned) for each individual program.
- Goals should be specific, reasonable, and attainable within a prescribed time. These short-term goals should be seen in the context of long-term achievement.
- A periodic evaluation by a licensed nurse is present in the resident's record for each individual restorative program.
- Nurse assistants/aides are trained in the techniques that promote resident involvement in the activity.
- A licensed nurse supervises the interventions; however, these interventions may be carried out by restorative nurses aides.
- The technique, procedure or activity practiced total at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period to report one day of restorative. To capture revenue for your Restorative Nursing Program, you must provide two separate 15 minute approaches per day provided over 6 days in the 7 day look-back period.