

UNDERSTANDING PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Connecting Pathophysiology to Clinical Practice

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Applying pathophysiology to clinical practice is needed by the nurse to develop clinical judgment skills. Use this worksheet to practice connecting essential knowledge of pathophysiology of a primary diagnosed medical problem of a patient to nursing clinical practice to include patient education, nursing assessments, expected lab values, and pharmacology.

Primary medical problem:

1. In your own words, define and describe the pathophysiology of the primary medical problem of your patient. How would you teach your patient about the pathophysiology of this medical problem using non-medical terminology?

Pathophysiology of Primary Medical Problem	What would you teach the patient/family?

2. What body system or systems are directly impacted by this medical problem, and how?

Body System(s)	How is each body system affected?

3. What are the priority nursing assessments with this medical problem? Refer to the body systems listed above that are most affected. What assessment findings may be abnormal as a result of this problem?

Priority Assessments	What are the expected abnormal findings?

4. What lab tests are altered by this medical problem? How are those lab tests affected? Does the altered lab test affect any physical assessment findings?

Abnormal Labs	How Affected (high or low)	How are assessment findings affected?

5. What medications are most commonly prescribed to manage this medical problem?

Medications (generic)	What is the mechanism of action (in your own words)?