

## **BAG TECHNIQUE**

**Goal: In-service on how to use bag technique for infection control**

### **WHAT CAN YOUR BAG CONTAIN?**

- Hand washing equipment- alcohol based hand rub and skin cleanser, soap, paper towels.
- Assessment equipment- as appropriate to care being provided; thermometers, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuff, and urine testing equipment
- Disposable supplies- as appropriate to care being provided; thermometer covers, sterile and non-sterile gloves, plastic aprons, dressings, adhesive tape, alcohol swabs, tongue blades, applicators, lubricant jelly, scissors, bandages, syringes, tongue blades etc.
- Paper Supplies- printed forms and materials necessary to teach patients and family/caregivers and document patient care
- Laptop, computer, documentation device.

### **BAG CARE TECHNIQUES:**

- Must regularly check the expiration date of any disposable supplies kept in the bag. Return expired supplies to office for proper disposal.
- Bag should be cleaned regularly.
- The bag will be cleaned as soon as feasible when it is grossly contaminated or dirty.
- Clean your bag with soap and water, alcohol or another approved cleaning agent.

### **BAG TECHNIQUE IN THE HOME PROCEDURE:**

1. The bag must be placed on a clean surface (example: a surface that can be easily disinfected) in the car and in the home. Barriers that are used can be newspaper, plastic bags or something that can be thrown away easily.
2. Prior to administering care, alcohol-based hand rubs or soap and paper towels will be removed, and hands will be washed. These supplies will be left at the sink for hand washing at the end of the visit. Hand washing will always be completed before entering the bag!!!! Therefore these supplies must be kept in a separate pocket or dirty pocket away from all other supplies.

3. After washing hands, the supplies and/or equipment you are going to need for the visit needs to be removed from the bag. This is to prevent you from touching the patient and then putting your hands back in the bag.
4. When the visit is complete, reusable equipment will be cleaned with alcohol, soap and water, or other appropriate solution, hands will be washed, and equipment and supplies will then be returned to the bag.
5. If paper towels/ newspaper have been used as a protective barrier for bag placement in the patient's home, they will be discarded.