

Adult – Medical Surgical Abdominal Assessment

Course Description: This module describes the fundamentals of abdominal assessment in medical-surgical environments, and the methods used to distinguish between normal and abnormal findings. It also presents documentation tips for wound assessments and for post-operative assessments of incisions (using REEDA as a guideline). Finally, it compares and differentiates JP, Hemovac, Penrose, NG, and Salem Sump drains. This learning activity is also a great orientation tool for nurses who want to pursue careers in med-surg nursing.

Course Objectives:

- Explain the fundamentals of abdominal assessment in medical-surgical environments
- Explain the methods used to distinguish between normal and abnormal findings in abdominal assessments
- Discuss documentation tips for wound assessments
- Discuss post-operative assessment of incisions using REEDA as a guideline
- Compare and differentiate JP, Hemovac, Penrose, NG, and Salem Sump drains, and discuss related troubleshooting tips
- Discuss common medical problems and assessment considerations for medical-surgical patients