



Christian Science Nurse Scope of Practice

Christian Science nursing care includes:

- Accepting a case with the expectancy of complete and immediate healing;
- Spiritual reassurance: acknowledging God's all-presence and absolute power; faithfully and consistently affirming the patient's spirituality;
- Encouragement: gently offering Christian assistance in support of the individual's expression of vitality and normal activity;
- Reading aloud: reading, at the patient's request or with the patient's permission, from the Bible, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* and other writings by Mary Baker Eddy; also additional literature published by The Christian Science Publishing Society;
- Communication: contacting the Christian Science practitioner on the case or family members if patient is unable to do so; maintaining an ethical, moral, and loving manner in all communications with the patient, family, friends, practitioner, and others;
- Personal care: assistance with bathing, commoding, oral care;
- Mobility assistance: moving, handling; positioning in a chair or bed; help with the use of wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, canes, or other aids;
- Nourishment: preparation and/or modification of food; assistance with feeding; also appropriate encouragement to eat;
- Dressing/bandaging: proper cleansing and bandaging of wounds to provide for cleanliness, protection, and comfort;
- Instruction: instructing the patient and/or others in providing care for meeting individual physical needs;
- Being obedient to the laws of the land;
- ❖ Development of a discharge plan (Medicare requirement).

Christian Science nursing does not include:

- Intruding on the private relationship between the patient and the Christian Science practitioner, or between the patient and his or her family;
 - Giving personal advice and counsel; assuming responsibility for making health care decisions for the patient;
 - Diagnosing; recording, and maintaining a record of symptoms or conditions;
 - Summoning medical care except at the request of the patient or responsible party;
 - Administering medication, drugs, or using medicated, herbal, vitamin-based products and remedies;
 - Using and administering medically oriented techniques, equipment, and technology;
 - Manipulation, massages, physical therapy;
 - ❖ Calling 911 for any emergency assistance;
 - ❖ Care for patients receiving Medicaid assistance through the State of Washington Public Assistance Division.
- ❖ Sunrise Haven has added these practices to those provided in the "The Christian Science Nurse Scope of Practice," prepared by The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, July 2007. (09/28/07)