Complete Health History

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Nursing Health History

- It is the systematic collection of subjective data that is used for determining a client's functional health pattern status for the purpose of nursing diagnosis.
- It is also a chronological and detailed health record of a client.



Purpose of health history;

- To collect subjective data.
- To form data base (with objective and laboratory data).
- To make judgement or diagnosis.

Systemic approach hx taking

- Forms vary, but most forms contain the following information.
 - 1. Biographical data
 - 2. Chief complaint
 - 3. History of present illness



4. History of past illness
5. Family history
6. Review of systems

1. Biographical data

Date – in rapidly changing.

- Identifying data- name, age, sex, race, ethnicity, birthplace, occupation, marital status, etc.
- Source of referral.
- Source of history.

2. Chief complaint

- Reason for seeking care.
- Patient own words, enclosed in quotation mark to indicate the client's exact word.
- One or two symptoms and there duration.
- Does not include wellness need.
- Not attempt to develop nursing diagnosis.

3. History of present illness

- The amplification of the chief complaint.
- Short for well person, general state of health.
- For ill person it includes chronological record of eight critical characteristics.

- Location-radiating Vs localized
- Quality (character)-burning, aching, e.t.c
- Quantity (severity)- volume, number and size, e.t.c
- Timing (onset, duration and frequency)



- Setting
- Aggravating or relieving factors
- Associated manifestations
- Clients perception-meaning of symptoms to the client

4. History of past illness

- Childhood illnesses
- Accident or injuries
- Serious or chronic illness
- Hospitalization
- Operations
- Obstetric history

5. Family history

- Age and health status of the mother, father, and each of the siblings, or the age at death and cause.
- Have genetic significance for the client.
- Construct family tree, or genogram to show this information.

6. Review of systems

- Purpose;
 - To evaluate the past and present health status of each body system.
 - To double check in case any significant data were omitted in the present illness section.



- Order of examination-head to toe.
- Avoid writing negative, positive, normal, and abnormal.
- Record just for the presence or absence of symptoms.

- General:
 - Ask for usual wt., recent wt. changes, weakness, fatigue, fever, chills, e.t.c.
- Skin:
 - Ask for rashes, lumps, sores, itching, dryness, color change, changes in hair or nails, e.t.c

Head:

- Ask for headache, head injury, e.t.c.
- Eyes:
 - Ask for vision, glasses, contact lenses, pain, changes in color, tearing, double vision, blurring of vision, spots, flashing of flights, glaucoma, and cataracts.

- Ears:
 - Ask for hearing, tinnitus, vertigo, earaches, infection, discharge. If hearing is decreased, use of hearing aids.
- Nose and sinuses:
 - Ask for frequent colds, nasal stuffiness, discharge or itching, bleeding, sinus trouble.



- Mouth and throat:
 - Ask for conditions of teeth and gums, bleeding gums, sore tongue, dry mouth, frequent sore throat, hoarseness.
- Neck:
 - Ask for lumps, swollen glands, goiter, pain or stiffness in the neck.

- Breasts:
 - Ask for lumps, pain or discomfort, nipple discharge, self –examination.
- Respiratory:
 - Ask for cough, sputum, hemoptysis, wheezing, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, pneumonia, tuberculosis, pleurisy, chest pain, shortness of breath, cyanosis.

Cardiovascular:

Ask for edema, rheumatic fever, leg cramps, varicose veins, dyspnea (degree of exercise tolerance), palpitation, orthopnea (number of pillows required), paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea, chest pain, syncope, strider, hypertension.



- Peripheral vascular:
 - Ask for coldness, numbness, tingling, leg swelling, hand or feet discoloration, varicose vein or ulcer.

Gastrointestinal tract:

Ask for appetite, nausea, vomiting, dysphagia, heart burn, food idiosyncrasy, abdominal pain, bowel habits, jaundice, hemorrhoids, bloody, tarry or clay colored stool, hepatitis.

Urinary system:

 Ask for flank pain (steady, colicky, etc.) frequency, dysuria, urgency, hesitancy, hematuria, pyuria, incontinence, e.t.c.

Genital system:

 STIs, menstrual history (menarche, interval between periods, duration and

amount of flow, intermenstrual bleeding or discharge, post coital bleeding), dysparunia, menopause, postmenopausal symptoms, penis or testicular pain, sore or lesion, penile discharge, lumps or hernia, e.t.c.



- Musculoskeletal:
 - Ask for muscle or joint pain, stiffness, arthritis, backache.
- Neurologic:
 - Ask for fainting, black outs, seizures, weakness, paralysis, numbness or loss of sensation, tingling, involuntary movement



- (tremors, tics, fasciculation), poor memory, lack of orientation.
- Endocrine:
 - Heat or cold intolerance, excessive sweating, diabetes (diagnosed), excessive thirst or hunger, polyuria.

Functional health pattern approach

Use of the functional health pattern framework for assessment assists the nurse in differentiating between area for independent nursing intervention and areas requiring collaboration or referral.

1. Health perception and Health management pattern

- Description of health (usual); description of present illness (onset, course, treatment).
- Relevance of health to activities.
- Preventive measures; general health care behavior.
- Previous hospitalization, expectation of this hospitalization.
- Potential self care problems.

2. Nutritional and Metabolic pattern

- Usual food and fluid intake, appetite.
- Daily eating times
- Recent weight change and reason
- Food restriction or preference, food supplements.
- Swallowing, chewing, eating problems, food allergies.

- Skin lesion, and general ability to heal.
- Condition of skin, hair, nails, mucus membrane, and teeth.
- Temperature, pulse, respiration, height, weight.

3. Elimination pattern

- Bowel-usual time, frequency, colour, consistency.
- Assistive device (laxatives, suppositories, enemas).
- Constipation diarrhea.
- Bladder-usual frequency, problems with dysuria, or polyuria.
- Skin condition-color, temperature.
- Turgor-lesion, edema, pruritus.

4. Activity and Exercise pattern

- Exercise
- Activity
- Leisure
- Recreation pattern
- Limitation in activities of daily living

5. Sleep and Rest pattern

- Usual sleep routine
- Sleep pattern
- Perception of quality sleep
- Perception quantity of sleep

6. Cognitive and Perceptual pattern

- Sensory adequacy-hearing, sight, smell, touch and taste.
- Prosthetic device (glasses, hearing aids).
- Pain, problem with vertigo.
- Heat or cold sensitivity.
- Language, understanding ,memory abilities.

7. Self perception and Self concept pattern

- Self description
- Effect of illness on self
- Perception, body image, identity, selfesteem
- Posture, eye contact, voice and speech patterns



8. Role and Relationship pattern

- Life roles and responsibilities.
- Satisfaction and dissatisfaction in family, work, and social relationships.

9. Sexuality and Reproductive pattern

- Sexuality patterns; satisfaction or dissatisfaction with sexual patterns.
- Adequate of sexual knowledge.
- Reproductive state (female premenopausal or post menopausal)



10. Coping and Stress Tolerance pattern

- General coping strategies
- Stress tolerance
- Stress reduction behaviors
- Support systems
- Ability to manage situations

11. Value and Belief pattern

- Values, goals; belief that are basis for decisions
- Value or belief conflict
- Spiritual practices

