

**Encouraging students to critically think and clinically reason is pivotal to their learning. Frequent exposure to higher order thinking will develop this skill set. These cards can be used in class, clinical, or lab to push the student to think more deeply about any given situation.**

**Critical Thinking Cards:** These cards are categorized by body system. When a student is caring for a client, performing a skill in lab or caring for a client in simulation, hand them a critical thinking note card and have them think through what they would do next. Each card is a different clinical change that requires clinical reasoning.

**Critical Thinking Activities:** These activities can be used in clinical, lab or simulation to keep students active and engaged. Assign them or surprise them, it will keep students learning. They work great to fill clinical “down” times.

NurseThink® For Nurse Educators Lab Coat Notes for Teaching Clinical is written by Karin J. Sherrill, RN, MSN, CNE, CHSE, ANEF



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## CRITICAL THINKING

Vital Signs and Pain	5	Medications/	
Neurological	13	Intravenous Fluids	48
Cardiovascular	19	Musculoskeletal	53
Respiratory	24	Mental Health	55
Gastrointestinal	30	Maternal - Newborn	59
Skin/Wound	35	Pediatrics	63
Drains/Tubes	40		

## ACTIVITIES

Lab, Sim, and Clinical

67

# Categories Key

## **NCLEX® Needs Categories**

*(www.ncsbn.org)*

Mgmt = Management of Care

Safe/Inf = Safety & Infection Control

Health = Health Promotion  
& Maintenance

Psych = Psychosocial Integrity

Basic = Basic Care & Comfort

Pharm = Pharmacological &  
Parenteral Therapies

Risk = Reduction of Risk Potential

Physio = Physiological Adaptation

## **QSEN** (*www.qsen.org*)

PCC = Patient Centered Care

T&C = Teamwork & Collaboration

EBP = Evidence-Based Practice

QI = Quality Improvement

S = Safety

In = Informatics

## **Nursing Process**

A = Assessment

An = Analysis

P = Plan

I = Implementation

E = Evaluation

**Vital Signs and Pain**

Category: Physio - S - A/An/I

**Your client's blood pressure is 90/54.**

*Nurse, What Will You Do Now?*

**Your client's blood pressure 178/101.**

*Nurse, What Will You Do Now?*

**Vital Signs and Pain**

Category: Physio - EPB - A/An/I

**Your client's respiratory rate is 10 and shallow.**

*Nurse, What Will You Do Now?*

**Your client's pulse oximetry is 89%.**

*Nurse, What Will You Do Now?*



## **Plan for the top 3 discharge needs for a client.**

Category: Mgmt - PCC - P

## **Prioritize the order in which to perform a client's admission orders.**

Category: Mgmt - PCC - A/An/I

## **Which collaborative team members are needed in the care of a specific client?**

Category: Mgmt - T&C - P



## **Compare/Contrast the fluid and electrolyte status of 5 clients.**

Category: Pharm - EBP - E

## **Evaluate a hand-off report and determine 3 priority items the nurse needs to know.**

Category: Mgmt - T&C/In - E