

**TUFTS MEDICINE CARE AT HOME
CLINICAL TEAM COMPETENCY
STAPLE REMOVAL COMPETENCY**

EMPLOYEE _____

STAFF POSITION _____

Date _____

COMPETENCY STATEMENT: *The clinician demonstrates*

Disciplines Involved: Clinicians

Performance Criteria	Date	*Method of Assessment (√ all that apply)										Skill met (M) or unmet (U)
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Demonstrates knowledge of infection control and adheres to standard precautions.				X								
Verbalizes monitoring of patient for discomfort during procedure.					X							
Verbalizes to count the observable staples before and after removal to ensure all staples are removed.					X							
Demonstrates removing dressing using clean technique.				X								
Demonstrates examining the wound before removing staples to observe the incision for gaping, drainage and signs of infection.				X								
Verbalizes that if adequate healing has not taken place, notify the physician.					X							
Demonstrates cleansing the incision line gently with alcohol/antimicrobial wipes/sponges.				X								
Demonstrates using the sterile staple extractor, positioning the extractor's lower jaws beneath the width of the first staple or clip.				X								
Demonstrates squeezing the handle until the jaws are completely closed and the staple or clip is away from the skin and when bending the shape of the staple or clip, the extractor pulls the clip out of the skin.				X								
Demonstrates discarding the removed staple or clip by holding the extractor over a paper towel and releasing the handle.				X								
Verbalizes that if gaping occurs along the incision line, DO NOT remove any remaining staples, apply skin closure strips to close the gap and alert the patient's physician.					X							
Verbalizes if no gaping occurs along incision line, continue to remove all staples, cleanse the suture line with antimicrobial sponges, count the number of staples on the paper towel and discard staples/clips and staple/clip remover in a sharps container.					X							
Verbalizes to apply skin closure strips or dry clean dressing secured with tape if ordered by physician.					X							
Verbalizes documentation of procedure, description of incision line, number of staples/clips removed and patient's response to procedure in patients record.					X							
Verbalizes patient/caregiver instructions on the healing of the incision line after removal of staples/clips and to report redness, discharge and other signs of infection.					X							

Summary Assessment Findings:

- ☐ Knowledge/skill level satisfactory
☐ Knowledge/skill level needs improvement

Specify plan to promote level of competency

Competency reevaluation in: ____ 6mos. ____ 1year ____ other

Employee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator's Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Method of Assessment Legend**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1) Review credentials/experience | 6) Post Test |
| 2) Review Cont. Ed./In-services | 7) Team Mts./Case Conf. |
| 3) Observation of Performance | 8) Yearly Performance Eval. |
| 4) Verbal Review | 9) Review of Self Study |
| 5) Record Review | 10) Other (specify) |