

**Specification of Competency Standards**  
**for the Elderly Care Service Industry**  
**Unit of Competency**

Functional Area - Clinical Care

Title	Perform Oral-nasopharyngeal Suction
Code	106042L3
Range	This Unit of Competency is applicable to employees in the elderly care service industry who provide clinical care to elderlies. This Competency involves the ability of analysis and making judgment. Employees are required to assess elderlies' airway condition and their ability to cough out phlegm by themselves; and to perform oral nasopharyngeal suctioning properly according to relevant procedures and standards of the institution, so as to keep their airways clear .
Level	3
Credit	3 (For Reference Only)
Competency	<p>Performance Requirements</p> <p>1. Oral nasopharyngeal suctioning</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the basic anatomy of the mouth and nasopharynx</li> <li>• Understand the important notes to take when performing oral nasopharyngeal suction</li> <li>• Understand the technique of the oral nasopharyngeal suction</li> <li>• Understand the required supplies and tools for oral nasopharyngeal suction such as: suction bottle, sterile suction catheter, water for irrigation, disposable gloves, personal protective equipment, vacuum aspiration catheter, water-soluble lubricant, oxygen, oximeter, and stethoscope.</li> <li>• Understand elderlies' airway conditions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correct interpretation of medical history</li> <li>○ Properly identify airway conditions such as: respiratory rate, blood oxygen level, ability to cough out phlegm on their own and mobility level.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Understand the guidelines and standards of the institution regarding performing oral nasopharyngeal suction</li> <li>• Understand the related infection control procedures, guidelines and implementation skills as prescribed by the institution</li> </ul> <p>2. Oral nasopharyngeal suctioning technique</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess elderlies' need for oral nasopharyngeal suction</li> <li>• Prepare for oral nasopharyngeal suction properly such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explain to elderlies the purpose and procedures of oral nasopharyngeal suction so that they are more likely to comply and to help them overcome fear</li> <li>○ Protect elderlies' privacy</li> <li>○ Prepare and assemble all required supplies and tools</li> <li>○ Perform infection control measures including: hand washing, put on and dispose of personal protective equipment properly</li> <li>○ If elderlies are undergoing oxygen therapy, the concentration of the oxygen may need to be adjusted before the oral nasopharyngeal suction</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Perform oral nasopharyngeal suction properly, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Select suction catheter of appropriate size</li> <li>○ Adjust the appropriate suction pressure</li> <li>○ Perform the procedures of aseptic technique</li> <li>○ According to relevant guidelines of the institution, the amount and viscosity of the phlegm and the tolerance level of the elderlies, repeat oral nasopharyngeal suction procedures in order to clear their airways</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Specification of Competency Standards**  
**for the Elderly Care Service Industry**  
**Unit of Competency**

Functional Area - Clinical Care

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoid hypoxia by pausing suction from time to time, so that elderlies have time to rest</li> <li>● Pay close attention to elderlies' facial complexion and breathing when performing oral nasopharyngeal suction, take appropriate measures if necessary</li> <li>● Properly take care of the elderlies and handle used tools properly</li> <li>● Assess elderlies' breathing condition such as: respiratory rate, lung sounds and blood oxygen level; encourage elderlies to perform breathing exercise</li> <li>● Accurately document the amount, colour and nature of elderlies' phlegm; elderlies' responses; and their respiratory rate, lung sounds and blood oxygen level before and after the suction, so that follow-up actions can be taken.</li> </ul> <p>3. Exhibit professionalism</p> <p>Be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protect elderlies' privacy and maintain their dignity when performing oral nasopharyngeal suction</li> <li>● perform the oral nasopharynx suction safely and correctly by applying professional nursing knowledge; take appropriate measures in the process</li> <li>● Be mindful of the discomfort elderlies may experience and try to minimise such discomfort</li> </ul>
Assessment Criteria	<p>The integrated outcome requirements of this Unit of Competency are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ability to assess elderlies' airway condition, their ability to cough out phlegm on their own, to accurately judge whether oral nasopharyngeal suction is necessary; and</li> <li>● Ability to perform oral nasopharyngeal suction and observe elderlies' condition after the suction; to keep elderlies' airways clear.</li> </ul>
Remark	