



NC Department of Health and Human Services

NC Home Care Aide Curriculum

Module 3 – Personal Safety

July 2021

OBJECTIVES

- 1. List the rights of the home care aide as an employee**
- 2. Recognize unsanitary working conditions**
- 3. Travel safely to/from the homes of patients**
- 4. Avoid chemical hazards in the home**
- 5. Demonstrate confidence in a potentially dangerous situation**

PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-A – Rights As An Employee And Harassment



Safety and Health of Employees

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) governs most workplace safety standards



OSHA Resources and Contacts

- **OSHA**

- <https://www.osha.gov/>
- **1-800-321-OSHA (6742)**
- **Find an OSHA office**
<https://www.osha.gov/contactus/bystate>



WORKPLACE HARASSMENT

- **Workplace safety includes being free from any kind of harassment**
- **The workplace of the home care aide includes the office and the home of the patient**
- **Harassment is never okay in the workplace**



Sexual Harassment

Types of sexual harassment

- Verbal or written
- Physical
- Nonverbal
- Visual



In the workplace, if someone speaks to you inappropriately or touches you in a sexual manner, report it to your supervisor immediately

PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-B – Unsanitary work environment



UNSANITARY WORK ENVIRONMENT

An unsanitary work environment can include:

- **Rodents**
- **Maggots**
- **Snakes**
- **Fleas**
- **Roaches**



UNSAFE HOME ENVIRONMENT

Unsafe structural problems and other unsafe conditions in the home may also be a factor for the home care aide



HANDOUT #1/ACTIVITY #1

Safety of the home environment



PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-C – Travel Safety



Travel Safety for the Home Care Aide

- **Stick to your schedule**
- **Know where you are going**
- **Lock car doors and close windows when driving**
- **Carry a cell phone**
- **Maintain at least ½ tank of gas**
- **Turn on emergency flashers, raise hood, call for help, stay in locked car if car breaks down**
- **Secure your car before entering home of the resident**
- **Be aware of your surroundings**

PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-D – Safety in the patient's home and chemical hazards



Safety While In The Home

- **Always be aware of your surroundings**
- **Allow angry patient or family member to express feelings; do not argue or debate**
- **Remain calm and alert**
- **Position yourself near an exit**



Safely Work With Chemicals

- **Cleaning products are considered chemicals**
- **Ask your agency about Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for information about safe use of cleaning products**
- **Never mix cleaning products**
- **Never use unlabeled cleaning products**
- **Use cleaning products in well ventilated area; the fumes may lead to fainting or other harmful effects**



ACTIVITY #2

Guest speaker from local law enforcement



PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-E –Violence, gangs, and/or possible drug activity in the home of the patient



Violence, Gangs, and Drugs (1)

- **Goal of the home care aide is to safely attend to the patient, while staying safe and unharmed in any way**
- **Always act in a calm, confident, and observant manner**
- **Know where exits are; keep the path to an exit clear**
- **Be aware of any animals in the home**
- **If you ever feel threatened or unsafe, leave**

Violence, Gangs, and Drugs (2)

- **Gang activity is on the rise**
- **Patient or someone else in the home may have gang ties**
- **Different gangs have different signs such as gang colors or symbols**
- **Do not attempt to discuss possible gang ties with patient or other individuals in the home**
- **If you do not feel safe, leave**



Violence, Gangs, and Drugs (3)

- **Drug activity may be in home of patient**
- **Avoid any unlabeled pills, chemicals or containers and report it to supervisor**
- **Beware of dogs that may be protecting drugs in the home**
- **Request to have any animal crated or restrained while you are in the home**
- **Report suspected drug activity to supervisor**



ACTIVITY #3

Case Scenario & Class Discussion



**Always be aware of
your surroundings
and**

BE SAFE!