

NC Department of Health and Human Services
NC Home Care Aide Curriculum
 Module 3 – Personal Safety
 July 2021

1

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

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2

PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-A – Rights As An Employee And Harassment




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3

Safety and Health of Employees

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




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4

OSHA Resources and Contacts

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



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5

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




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6

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

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7

OTHER TYPES OF HARASSMENT

There is no place in your workplace for any type of harassment




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8

PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-B – Unsanitary work environment




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9

UNSANITARY WORK ENVIRONMENT

An unsanitary work environment can include:

- Rodents
- Maggots
- Snakes
- Fleas
- Roaches




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10

UNSAFE HOME ENVIRONMENT

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



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11

HANDOUT #1/ACTIVITY #1

Safety of the home environment




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12

PERSONAL SAFETY

Module 3-C – Travel Safety



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13

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

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14

PERSONAL SAFETY

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



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15

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




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16

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




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17

ACTIVITY #2

Guest speaker from local law enforcement




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18

PERSONAL SAFETY

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



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19

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

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20

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




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21

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




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22

ACTIVITY #3

Case Scenario & Class Discussion



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23

**Always be aware of
your surroundings
and**

BE SAFE!

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24
