### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for clinical assessments of patient during continued care.

### POLICY

The scope and intensity of ongoing assessments will be determined by the patient’s diagnoses, condition, desire for care, response to previous care, and the care setting.

### PROCEDURE

1. During each home visit the nurse will re-evaluate the patient according to the problems identified during the initial visit and thereafter.
2. Two patient identifiers will be used to identify the patient. Acceptable patient identifiers are:
3. Patient Name
4. Date of Birth
5. Social Security Numbers
6. Photo Identification
7. Insurance Card
8. Family/Caregiver verified identity
9. Visual recognition
10. Using the standards of care identified by the Lippincott Online Procedures, the nurse will reassess the patient for:
	1. Blood pressure, pulse, respirations, temperature
	2. Weight (once each week, if indicated by disease process)
	3. Pain status when applicable
	4. Breath sounds
	5. Skin integrity
	6. Bowel sounds; elimination (urinary and bowel)
	7. Appetite/diet, nutritional status
	8. Mental status
	9. Functional status
	10. Safety/home environment
	11. Patient and family/caregiver support
	12. Progress toward goals and patient needs and problems
	13. Compliance to treatment and/or medications
11. Re-assessments should focus on:
	1. Patient’s response to care
	2. Changes in patient condition
	3. Changes in patient diagnoses
	4. Changes in patient’s care environment or support systems
12. When a patient is receiving only personal care and support services, the reassessment will occur at least every six (6) months or more often, as necessary.
13. Based on each reassessment, the plan of care, including problems, needs, goals, and outcomes will be reviewed and revised accordingly by the clinician.
14. Based on the findings of the reassessment, change/verbal orders will be generated and forwarded to the physician (or other authorized licensed practitioner) as needed.
15. The physician will be notified to verify any changes in medications, including over-the-counter medications (which might interact or be duplicative with other patient medications), and treatment/interventions that require physician approval.