

ECT Nurse Competencies

The role of the ECT nurse is to provide guidance, support and expertise relating to all aspects of patient care within the ECT service.

The competencies listed below relate specifically to the extended role of the ECT nurse so do not contain generic competencies.

Levels

- 1** = fully conversant
- 2** = working knowledge
- 3** = awareness

Verbally assessed

- 1** = is able to explain accurately to a standard that shows sufficient understanding to allow competent application of the knowledge.
- 2** = able to explain key features to a standard that shows understanding in common situations and access further information if necessary.
- 3** = is aware of the topic and knows where to get further information but not to a level that provides a working knowledge.

Observed

- 1** = is able to carry out the procedure to a standard that shows sufficient skill and understanding that would enable them to carry out the procedure competently and independently.
- 2** = is able to carry out the procedure to a standard that shows sufficient skill and understanding in common situations with either direct or indirect supervision.
- 3** = is aware of the topic and knows where to get further information but not to a level of working knowledge.

Knowledge

No.	Competency	How evidenced	Level
1	Able to describe the theories of how ECT works	Verbally	
2	Demonstrates a knowledge of guidelines and standards relating to ECT including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Royal College of Psychiatrists • Royal College of Nursing • ECT Accreditation Service • NICE guidelines • NMC Code of Conduct 	Verbally	
3	Demonstrates a knowledge of local guidelines and policy with special reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral process • Prescription • Review process • Escort nurses 	Verbally	
4	Demonstrates an awareness of local policy relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety including incident reporting • Infection control • Decontamination • Transporting of patients • De-escalation and management of violence 	Verbally	
5	Demonstrates a knowledge of consent to treatment requirements, including common law and Mental Health Act documentation and requirements	Verbally	
6	Knowledge of the indications for ECT	Verbally	
7	Able to describe the contra-indications of ECT	Verbally	
8	Able to describe the possible side effects of ECT	Verbally	
9	Able to describe the risks and benefits of ECT	Verbally	
10	Able to describe the pre-treatment preparations required to be undertaken by the referring doctor and the rationale behind these	Verbally	
11	Able to describe the procedure for the administration of ECT	Verbally	
12	Able to describe the principle of stimulus dosing	Verbally	
13	Able to describe what is meant by an inadequate seizure and the process of re-stimulation	Verbally	

14	Able to describe what is meant by a prolonged seizure and is aware of the procedure to terminate a seizure	Verbally	
15	Able to describe the procedure for outpatient ECT	Verbally	
16	Demonstrates a basic knowledge of anaesthetic procedures	Verbally	
17	Able to demonstrate knowledge of the drugs used in ECT	Verbally	
18	Able to describe the observations and treatments necessary during the recovery period	Verbally	
19	Able to describe procedures for the management of emergencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory/cardiac arrest • Suxemethonium apnoea • Anaphylaxis • Malignant hyperthermia 	Verbally	
20	Demonstrates a knowledge of NICE guidance on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation/maintenance ECT • Discontinuation of ECT • Unilateral/bilateral ECT 	Verbally	

Communication

No.	Competency	How evidenced	Level
21	Able to correctly inform other professionals of the procedures involved in ECT including ward liaison	Verbally/ observed	
22	Able to correctly and sensitively inform the patient and their carers of the procedures involved in ECT	Verbally/ observed	

Practical Skills

No.	Competency	How evidenced	Level
23	Able to demonstrate the use and maintenance of equipment in the ECT department	Observed	
24	Able to set up and organise the department in preparation for a treatment session	Observed	
25	Able to correctly prepare the patient for their treatment	Observed	
26	Correctly checks all patient documentation	Observed	
27	Able to apply monitoring equipment correctly	Observed	

28	Able to measure the patient's vital signs and record accurately	Observed	
29	Able to apply EEG monitoring correctly if requested	Observed	
30	Assists the doctor in the administration of ECT	Observed	
31	Able to recognise and monitor a motor and EEG seizure	Observed	
32	Able to assist to put the patient in the recovery position	Observed	
33	Able to demonstrate competency in airway management including the use of suction and care of intravenous fluids (if required)	Observed	
34	Able to remove an intravenous cannula	Observed	
35	Able to complete an orientation assessment	Observed	
36	Able to complete required ECT paperwork correctly	Observed	

Please sign below to confirm completion of this document:

Nurse's name:

Signed:

Date:

Assessor(s) name(s):

Signed:

Date: