

The semantics involving body positions are essential to your role as the nurse whether it is transcribing physician's orders, providing optimal care to patients, giving report to the next shift, or writing your nurse's notes.

Nurses must ensure proper body positioning/alignment of patients. This is one of the first observations you should make as you enter a patient's room and one of the last before you leave the patient's room. Why? What may occur if you do not reposition the immobile patient into proper body alignment? Have you ever awakened in the morning with a body part tingling or "asleep"? Why did that phenomenon occur?

Sample Questions

1. You and your student partner are still caring for the 76 y/o immobile male, ht = 73 inches; wgt = 240 lbs. As you and your partner are tucking the bed linens under the mattress of your supine patient and mitering the corners at the bottom of the bed, you notice that your partner has pulled the linens very tightly over the patient's feet. If left in this position, which one of the following contractures will likely occur?
 - a. plantar flexion of the ankle.
 - b. dorsiflexion of the ankle.
 - c. flexion of the knee.
 - d. hyperextension of the neck.
2. You have just given your patient a bolus enteral feeding. In what bed position should your patient be in?
 - a. Dorsal recumbent
 - b. Trendelenburg
 - c. Semi-Fowler's
 - d. Supine