

Home Health Aide On-the-Go In-Service Lessons: Vol. 4, Issue 11: Patients with Casts (Home Health Aide on-the-Go in-Service Lessons, Volume 4)



This lesson on Patients with Casts includes a complete training packet. Each in-service packet takes approximately one hour to complete and fully meets the Medicare in-service training requirements. As aides need training, you can make as many copies as you want - there is no restriction when used with aides assigned from your office location. Remember that Home Health Aides must have 12 hours of in-service training every year. LESSON OBJECTIVES Upon completion of this program, the home health aide will be able to: List two problems that can occur when providing care to patients with casts Identify two complications that should be reported to the supervisor, and Describe the purpose of casts. OVERVIEW Casts are formed materials usually made of plaster or fiberglass that are used to protect and support injured bones and soft tissue. Casts act to reduce pain, swelling, and muscle spasms around injured bones or joints. Sometimes casts are applied after patients have surgery. Orthopedic doctors treat fractures throughout the body except for the skull and face by applying casts. Extremity fractures are most common and usually occur in men younger than age 45 and then become more common in women over age 45 due to bone loss. Accidents and falls are the most common cause of fractures. Home health aides may be assigned to patients who have casts following an injury or illness. They need to know what is required when caring for a patient with a cast.

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