

Cranial Nerve Nursing Assessment

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Patient Name:

ID:

Date of Birth:

Date of Examination:

Intro

Tasks:

- ☐ Wash hands
 - ☐ Introduce yourself
 - ☐ Identity of patient (confirm)
 - ☐ Permission
 - ☐ Pain
 - ☐ Position
 - ☐ Privacy
 - ☐ Expose head and neck
-

General Inspection

Tasks:

- ☐ Surroundings
 - ☐ Patient
-

CN I – Olfactory

Tasks:

- ☐ Ask about change in taste/smell
 - ☐ Formal assessment with smelling bottles
-

CN II – Optic

Acuity:

- ☐ Snellen
 - ☐ Alternative – informal testing
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Fields:

- ☐ Peripheral fields
 - ☐ Left eye
 - ☐ Right eye
 - ☐ Neglect
-

Reflexes:

- ☐ Pupil size, shape, symmetry
 - ☐ Direct pupillary reflex
 - ☐ Consensual pupillary reflex
 - ☐ Swinging light test
 - ☐ Accommodation reflex
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Ophthalmoscopy:

- ☐ Dim light
 - ☐ Red reflex
 - ☐ Optic disc
 - ☐ Scan retina including peripheries
-

CN III, IV, VI – Oculomotor, trochlear, abducens

Primary position:

- ☐ Ptosis
 - ☐ Nystagmus
 - ☐ Strabismus
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Other:

- ☐ Inspect eyelids
 - ☐ Diplopia
 - ☐ Smooth pursuit
 - ☐ Saccadic eye movements
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CN V – Trigeminal

Sensation – cotton wool test

- ☐ Ophthalmic
 - ☐ Maxillary
 - ☐ Mandibular
-

Motor:

- ☐ Teeth clench
 - ☐ Jaw open
-

Reflexes

- ☐ Corneal reflex
 - ☐ Jaw-jerk
-

VII – Facial

Tasks:

- ☐ Changes to hearing
 - ☐ Inspect facial asymmetry
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Assess facial movement:

- ☐ Eyebrow raise
 - ☐ Scrunch up eyes
 - ☐ Puff out cheeks
 - ☐ Show teeth
-

VIII – Vestibulocochlear

Tasks:

- ☐ Gross hearing assessment
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Formal assessment:

- ☐ Rinne test
 - ☐ Weber's test
 - ☐ Otoscopy
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IX, X – Glossopharyngeal, vagus

Tasks:

- ☐ Assess speech quality
 - ☐ Ask patient to cough
 - ☐ Palatar symmetry
 - ☐ Uvular deviation
 - ☐ Gag reflex
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XI – Spinal accessory

Tasks:

- ☐ Shrug test against resistance (trapezius muscle)
 - ☐ Head turn against resistance (sternocleidomastoid)
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XII – Hypoglossal

Tasks:

- ☐ Tongue inspection
 - ☐ Power of tongue against cheek
-

Closure

Tasks:

- ☐ Thank patient
 - ☐ Dispose of PPE
 - ☐ Wash hands
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Summary of Findings:

Next Steps:

Notes:

Clinician Name:

Date: