

**“RADIAL GUTTER SPLINT” PRACTICAL SKILL
COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT SHEET**

NAME: _____

EVALUATOR: _____

Date: _____

Upper Extremity Technique – Radial Gutter Splint

Time allotted = 15 minutes

Patient Position and Preparation	Exceeds Standards	Meets Standard	Approaching Standard	Does Not Meet Standard
Seated or standing (arm in position of function when possible)	3	2	1	0
Extremity is clean and free from dirt/debris	3	2	1	0
Rings, bracelets, and/or other appliances have been removed from hand and wrist area	3	2	1	0
Pre-application check – neurovascular status	3	2	1	0
Stockinette / Splint Material Preparation				
Selects appropriate stockinette to reach above elbow to fingertips / allows proper fold back	3	2	1	0
Apply the stockinette to extend 2" beyond the splinting material.	3	2	1	0
Water Bottle/Faucet Technique				
Dribble water onto backing material and rub beaded water to penetrate backing material	3	2	1	0
Pour minimal amount of water down back side of fiberglass using faucet or water bottle to dampen splint	3	2	1	0
Squeeze splint to spread water into fiberglass	3	2	1	0
Dipping in Bucket Technique				
Squeeze one or two times while immersed in water	3	2	1	0
Squeeze out excess water	3	2	1	0
Wrap flat in towel and press to blot out remaining excess water	3	2	1	0
Opening Splint Cover Technique				
Peel back one side of backing material to expose splint.	3	2	1	0
Dribble water onto exposed splinting material	3	2	1	0
Rubs water to penetrate splint material.	3	2	1	0
Replace backing material	3	2	1	0
Splint Application				
Selects 2" or 3" fiberglass appropriate for patient size	3	2	1	0
Apply the stockinette to extend 2" beyond the splinting material	3	2	1	0
Apply 2–3 layers of padding over the area to be splinted and between digits being splinted. Add an extra 2–3 layers over bony prominences (esp 2 nd /3 rd digits)	3	2	1	0
Cut out hole for thumb – wide enough to avoid constriction of soft tissue (padding)	3	2	1	0
Lightly moisten the splinting material, per above technique(s) – [Apply over the padding, to the lateral or radial surface of the forearm extending from the second DIP joint to the proximal third of the forearm]	3	2	1	0
If splint material is split, the two halves of the distal part of plaster are arranged anterior and posterior aspect of second and third metacarpals so as to sandwich second and third metacarpals. If the splint materials not slit, the thumb is passed through the plaster hole and the plaster is rested on the radial aspect of fingers and wrapping them anteriorly and posteriorly.	3	2	1	0
Folds the ends of stockinette over the splinting material	3	2	1	0
Places the edge of the elastic bandage distally, at the DIP joints of the second and third digits, and wrap proximally. The thumb and fourth and fifth digits are left free.	3	2	1	0
Continues up the arm distal to the cubital space or end of wrap, per MD	3	2	1	0
Secures elastic bandage with clips/tape as available	3	2	1	0
Does not encircle area with excessive compressive turns	3	2	1	0
While still wet, use palms to mold the splint to the desired shape	3	2	1	0
Lamination and Molding Techniques				
Performs "Inter-osseous" mold technique	3	2	1	0
Places the heel of one hand on the volar aspect of the distal wrist	3	2	1	0
Places the heel of second hand on the dorsal aspect of the distal wrist	3	2	1	0
Applies firm and gradual pressure at the wrist and progresses up forearm	3	2	1	0
Support and Neatness				
Maintains proper patient position, per MD	3	2	1	0
Checks ROM of elbow and fingers	3	2	1	0
Maintains good circulation to the fingers/thumb – post application neurovascular check	3	2	1	0
Post-application Principles				
Fits patient with sling, when appropriate and prescribed by MD	3	2	1	0
Checks for skin damage and cleans extremity when necessary	3	2	1	0
Provides patient with verbal and written instructions on splint care (i.e., do not stick any objects down into splint, do not remove the splint, and do not alter splinting)	3	2	1	0
Provides patient with follow up instructions for next visit	3	2	1	0

SKILL POINTS: _____ / 117

Must satisfy 80% competency = 93 / 117

Comments: