

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Employee ID \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

### Skeletal Traction for RNs

Critical Elements	Complete (Validator's Initials)
1. Verification of physician order for skeletal traction & amount of weight to be applied.	
2. Set-up hospital bed traction frame.	
3. Assess baseline patient neurovascular/neurological status prior to traction application.	
4. Position patient properly during application of traction.	
5. Following traction application, perform neurological & vascular assessment immediately & every 15 minutes for first hour to assess for changes from baseline.	
6. Assess traction set-up by checking amount of weight to be applied as the traction force.	
7. Ensure all weights are hanging freely & that ropes/knots are secure.	
8. Assess proper alignment is present (established line of pull is correct).	
9. Assess for presence of counter traction which is a force pulling in the opposite direction of the traction. Counter traction is typically provided by the weight of the patient's body.	
10. Check position of involved lower extremity to assure that pressure is not being placed on the heel or any other susceptible area.	
11. Apply manual traction when mechanical traction is released for readjustment.	
12. Explain diligence for potential complications such as pin site infection & pressure ulcers.	
13. Explain off-floor transport with nurse escort (i.e. to radiology department) to stabilize the limb (manual traction).	

Validator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_