Communication is a critical nursing skill, vital for meeting survival needs, building relationships, expressing emotions, and specifically in nursing, for gathering assessment data, teaching, persuading, and offering caring and comfort as an integral part of the helping relationship. It is defined as the process of exchanging information and generating meanings between individuals, forming society's foundation and the primary aspect of nurse–patient interactions. The communication process is initiated by a patient need. Its basic components include: the **sender** (encoder), who begins the process; the **message**, which is the actual communication product; the **channel**, the medium chosen to send the message, targeting auditory, visual, or kinesthetic (touch) senses, all of which nurses utilize. The **receiver** (decoder) must translate and interpret the message; nurses must consider the receiver for effective communication. Finally, **confirmation** provides feedback that the message was understood, highlighting communication as a reciprocal process where both sender and receiver participate simultaneously. Communication manifests in verbal and nonverbal forms, occurring independently or concurrently. **Verbal communication** involves exchanging information using spoken or written words, dependent on language. Nurses extensively use verbal communication for patient care, reports, developing care plans, and evaluating progress. **Nonverbal communication**, also known as body language, transmits information without words, often revealing subtle or hidden meanings. Among its various forms is **touch**, a personal behavior whose meaning is heavily influenced by familial, regional, class, and cultural factors.

Summarized by © lakhasly.com