

Clinical Guidelines for Practicum Nursing Students

Practicum students must submit a signed copy of their contract (signed agreement between student and preceptor) to the hospital Clinical Coordinator prior to initiating their practicum rotation.

Practicum students must follow the same clinical guidelines and procedures as clinical rotation nursing students in addition to the specific clinical guidelines detailed below:

- A. The senior practicum RN student is in the final semester of professional training gaining experiences that will prepare the student for the transition to professional practice after graduation. The senior practicum student works the same schedule of an assigned IHS RN preceptor and shares patient care assignments.
- B. The preceptor will work collaboratively with the student, the School faculty, and the Clinical Nurse Manager to supervise and assist with student learning. The preceptor will assist in providing a positive learning environment for the student and give guidance and feedback on performance on a regular basis.
- C. School faculty for senior practicum students are not consistently present in the clinical area, but are expected to make visits to the clinical area and maintain open communication with the IHS preceptor and manager.
- D. The preceptor will communicate to the School faculty the progress of the student and any special situations requiring follow-up in a timely manner.
- E. The preceptor is responsible for the following: a) communicates with the student to assess prior experiences and acquired skills, b) assesses patient needs and the student's level of competency and current skill performance before assigning patient care duties, and c) observes the student's performance of each clinical skill before allowing the student to perform the skill independently. Clinical skills that have been observed and approved by the preceptor may thereafter be performed independently by the student with the exception of the items listed in below.
- F. Verbal permission must be obtained from all patients prior to involving the student in the delivery or observation of the patient's care.
- G. The following interventions MAY NOT be performed independently by senior practicum or other nursing students. The student:
 - a. May not independently verify or initiate blood products for administration without direct supervision. Students may assist with the initiation of a blood transfusion and may monitor patients during blood administration.
 - b. May not independently take verbal or telephone orders from physicians.
 - c. May not independently sign as witness to a written patient consent. An agent of the hospital, such as the RN preceptor, must sign patient consent forms.
 - d. May not independently discontinue central venous access devices.
 - e. May not independently verify orders that have been entered into the EMR.
 - f. May not perform line draws independently.
- H. Students will report up-to-date information regarding the patient's care to the RN preceptor. Students will not leave the assigned patient care for breaks or at the end of shift without reporting off to the RN preceptor. The preceptor will assist and monitor the shift report given by the student to the shift coming on duty.
- I. The RN preceptor will assess all patients assigned to students. All documentation by the student will be reviewed by the RN preceptor before the student leaves the clinical area. The preceptor will continue to document all required assessments and other nursing documentation. RN preceptors do not have to co-sign for medications administered by students, with the exceptions of heparin and insulin infusions.
- J. Medications may not be accessed independently from the Medication dispensing system by the RN student. Medications will only be accessed by an IHS RN. Students may administer medications at the discretion of the IHS staff nurse.