

**CATEGORY:** Corporate Clinical  
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## PURPOSE

Nursing students are welcomed at Health Sciences North (HSN) and we are committed to fostering an environment that is conducive to the learning needs of the students while ensuring safe practice for our patients and staff.

## POLICY STATEMENT

We want to provide a consistent and standard approach for clinical learning experiences that fosters a safe environment for students, patients and staff members who are undergoing “group placement” at Health Sciences North (HSN).

This policy refers to both Registered Nursing students in year 1, 2 and 3 of clinical placement as well as Registered Practical Nursing Students in year 2 of clinical placement.

## PROCEDURE

### Special Instructions

- Students will introduce themselves to their patients on initial patient contact. Should the patient refuse student involvement in their care, the assignment will be changed.
- Students can perform skills that they have received proper education and preparation for.
- According to the College of Nurses , “nursing students are accountable for their own actions to the patient, their educational institutions and to HSN”.
- Student groups are **not permitted** to perform:
  - Advanced Nursing Skills (refer to “Advanced Nursing Skills” policy).
  - Medical Directives (please refer to list of Medical Directives located on the HUB →Policies and Procedures tab →Medical Directives tab
  - Point of Care Glucometer testing (Authorization for Use Point of Care found in Laboratory Standard Operating Procedures (Paradigm))
  - Independent double check (IDC) of medications (refer to “IDC of Medications for Adult patient policy” and IDC of Medications for Pediatric patients” policy).

**Method**

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Procedure or skills</b>
Clinical Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarizes self to the unit and to the patient population to be cared for.</li> <li>• Selects student assignments in consultation with charge nurse or delegate which are relevant to the experience and needs assessment of the group.</li> <li>• Communicates assignments and skills/tasks to be performed to nursing team (this can be accomplished by posting assignments in a strategic place on the unit)</li> <li>• For patients whom are deemed A.O.B (Acting Out Behaviour) please speak to charge nurse re: appropriateness of assigning these patients</li> <li>• Provides supervision as the assignments are carried out</li> <li>• Reviews and evaluate students documentation</li> <li>• Uses standards of practice and evidence-based knowledge to education the students</li> <li>• Follows all HSN policies, procedures and guidelines</li> </ul>
<p>Nursing student</p> <p><b>List of skills are to be used as a guide – the student may not have all the required education to perform each skill depending on year/semester of academic year.</b></p> <p><b>All skills are to be done under supervision until the clinical instructor deems the student competent to perform on own.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows all HSN policies, procedures and guidelines including privacy policy, code of conduct, infection prevention and control.</li> <li>• Wears their HSN ID badge in addition to their academic issued name tag.</li> <li>• Obtains supervision and assistance from clinical instructor or registered staff for new and/or unfamiliar situations</li> </ul> <p><b>Blood products:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May observe the checking of blood products by 2 registered staff (RN or RPN)</li> <li>○ Monitoring of blood products being administered</li> </ul> <p><b>Chest tubes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monitor site and dressing (change dressing as required)</li> <li>○ Monitor drainage</li> <li>○ Monitor presence of air leak</li> </ul> <p><b>Dressing changes and drainage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Simple, dry, moist-to-dry, medicated dressing and/or wound packing below the dermis to stable wounds</li> <li>○ Removal of staples, sutures and application of steri-strips</li> <li>○ Emptying and measuring of drainage device</li> <li>○ Removal of drainage device</li> </ul> <p><b>Enteral feeds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NG insertion for feeding – may monitor, do placement checks and may change bags and tubing.</li> <li>○ G-tube /J-tube-may monitor, change bags and tubing</li> </ul>

**Medications:**

- Oral
- Topical
- Rectal (including enemas)
- Subcutaneous
- Intramuscular
- Via N/G tube, G-tube/J-Tube
- Inhalation/nebulizer
- Pre-filled subcutaneous anticoagulant (clinical instructor or RN/RPN needs to co-sign)

**Nasogastric tube:**

- NG insertion for decompression
- may monitor, do placement checks and measure output
- removal

**Ostomy care:**

- Urinary ostomy - care, measuring output and changing appliance
- Bowel ostomy – care, measuring output and changing appliance

**Oxygen therapy:**

- Initiating and discontinuing nasal prongs based on physician order
- Caring for a patient on a simple mask, pendant , partial rebreather mask or nonrebreather mask, venturi mask if permitted
- Monitoring and titrating O<sub>2</sub> admin based on oximetry and physician order

**Peripheral Intravenous lines:**

- May hang, prime, change and regulate plain IV solutions or solutions containing up to 40 MeqKCl/litre
- Monitor site
- Flush saline lock with a prefilled 0.9% normal saline syringe
- Discontinue saline lock or IV
- Administer medication **above** the drip chamber (this **excludes** Insulin, Heparin, Chemotherapy or any other high risk drug)

**Restraints:**

- Monitoring patients in restraints
- Application or removal

**Mental Health and Addictions:** students may only care for patients for whom restraints are in use for mobility or security from medical equipment not high risk behavior or secluded patients

**Tracheostomy:**

- Dressing change
- Inner cannula care

	<p><b>Urinary catheters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Insertion of indwelling or intermittent</li> <li>○ Removal of indwelling or intermittent</li> <li>○ Use bladder scanner</li> </ul> <p><b>Maternal Newborn care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maternal vital signs and assessments: breast, uterine, surgical incisions, perineal, lochia</li> <li>○ Newborn vital signs and assessments: physical, intake and output</li> <li>○ Newborn cord care, diapering and bathing</li> <li>○ Education and assist in breast/bottle feeding</li> </ul> <p><b>Pediatric Care:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pediatric vital signs and assessments: physical, intake and output</li> <li>○ Newborn vital signs and assessments: physical, intake and output</li> <li>○ Newborn cord care, diapering and bathing</li> <li>○ Educate and assist with breast/bottlefeeding</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills not listed include but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ambulation of patients</li> <li>○ Developing therapeutic rapport</li> <li>○ Documentation in patients chart</li> </ul>
<b>Limitations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Take a verbal or telephone physician/prescriber order</li> <li>○ Act as a witness for consent or other legal documents</li> <li>○ Administer investigational drugs or anti-neoplastic agents</li> <li>○ Eye dressings, burn dressings, skin draft dressings, wounds that require mechanical debridement, V.A.C dressings</li> <li>○ Individual access to AMDU (Automated Medication Dispensing Unit) aka Pyxis and/or Meditech.</li> <li>○ Insulin administration</li> </ul>

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### Definitions

1. Clinical Instructor: An individual employed by the academic institution that supervised and guides a group of nursing students for the purpose of a clinical placement.
2. Group Placement: Two or more nursing students placed in a unit at the same time.
3. Nursing Student: An individual in an organized learning experience for placement.

### References and Related Documents

College of Nurses of Ontario Practice Standards: Code of Conduct (2019); Decisions About procedures and Authority (2020); Documentation, Revised 2008 (2019); Ethics (2019); Medication (2019); Therapeutic Nurse-Client relationship, Revised 2006 (2019)

HSN Policies and Procedures if not already mentioned in special instructions:

Blood and Blood products Administration HSN Policy and Procedure  
Student Placements – System-Level Non-Clinical, Issued by Academic Affairs Policy