


CRITICAL CARE AREAS STANDARDS

CATEGORY: Program Specific
ISSUE DATE: March 2, 2002
SUBJECT: **ROLE OF THE 4TH YEAR NURSING STUDENT
DURING ICU PRECEPTORSHIP**

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PURPOSE

To provide a standard in alignment with the College of Nurses of Ontario supporting learners FAQ for preceptors for review prior to the nursing student placement, ensuring nursing students provide care to critically ill patients as per established guidelines. Nurses are accountable in supporting learners who are transitioning into the profession, ensuring patient safety and well-being above all other objectives.

STANDARDS

<p>The nursing student may perform the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All aspects of basic care including physical assessment, neurological assessment, vital sign monitoring, physical care (bathing, mouth care, turning and repositioning) • Monitor intake and output • Manage drains and catheters (excluding ICP, lumbar drain and IABP) • CPR (if has current provider card) • Documentation relative to the level of expertise required by individual situations • Administer medication provided the drug is not considered experimental or requires special skill to administer • Attend multi-disciplinary and daily bullet rounds • Participate in family conferences
<p>Under the direct supervision of a Certified Registered Nurse, the nursing student may perform the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arterial/Central/Pulmonary Artery – level and zero (calibrate) transducer • Identify and mark reference point for hemodynamic monitoring • Monitor and titrate IV (including central line) infusions • Ventilator checks • Suction via endotracheal tube, tracheostomy tube and orally as indicated • Basic ECG interpretation • Regulate or change oxygen delivery systems • Non-invasive ventilation checks

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- Assist the RRT with change of endotracheal tube tape/ties
- Insert/remove nasogastric/orogastric tube
- Insert/remove Foley catheter
- Deliver end-of-shift report
- Commence peripheral IV (**NOTE:** Nursing students who have met the criteria as per the standards of their academic program may practice this skill under direct supervision of the preceptor.

The supervising nurse must be certified in the above skills in order to provide the direction and guidance necessary during skill performance by the student.

Other situations requiring the **direct supervision** of a **Registered Nurse** include the following:

- Tracheostomy/laryngectomy care
- Dressing changes
- Surgical asepsis
- PCA and Epidural administration and pump management
- Application and management of IPCD
- Care and management of warming/cooling blankets
- Enteral feeding protocols
- Assisting preceptor with nursing role during procedures performed by physicians
- Chest tube management and removal
- Removal of arterial and central catheters
- Administration of blood products
- Administration of IV medications below the drip chamber (direct IV administration)
- Pulmonary Artery (PA) catheter cardiac outputs and dressing change
- Assisting the RRT with extubation/repositioning of the E-tube
- Processing physician orders (2 RNs must continue to sign medication verification)
- Order entry

Skills which the student is **not permitted** to perform include the following:

- Advanced Nursing Skills or Delegated Controlled Acts
- Defibrillation/cardioversion
- Blood specimen withdrawal
- Telephone orders from physicians
- Removal of epidural catheters
- Any aspect of ICP care (including venting, repositioning of drip chamber, leveling, zeroing, etc.)
- Lumbar drain care and management
- Intra-aortic balloon pump management
- Life-saving medications as per Critical Care Program medical directives

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

References and Related Documents

College of Nurses of Ontario Practice Guidelines. Documentation. 2008.

College of Nurses of Ontario. (2021, May 10). *Supporting learners*. College of Nurses of Ontario.

<https://www.cno.org/en/learn-about-standards-guidelines/educational-tools/ask-practice/supporting-learners/> IV Initiation by Nursing Students. (2020). Health Sciences North.