

## Surgical - OR & PACU STANDARDS

**CATEGORY:** Program Specific  
**ISSUE DATE:** December 2022  
**SUBJECT:** **ROLE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR NURSING STUDENT  
 DURING PACU PRECEPTORSHIP**

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### PURPOSE

To provide a standard, along with the College of Nurses of Ontario *Supporting Learners* practice guideline, for preceptors for review prior to the nursing student placement, to ensure nursing students provide care to post anesthetic care patients as per established guidelines.

### STANDARDS

<p>The nursing student may perform the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All aspects of basic care including post op assessment specific to surgery or procedure, vital sign monitoring, physical care (mouth care, turning and repositioning, toileting)</li> <li>• Monitor intake and output</li> <li>• Manage drains and catheters</li> <li>• CPR (if has current provider card)</li> <li>• Documentation relative to the level of expertise required by individual situations</li> <li>• Administer medication provided the drug is not considered experimental or requires special skill to administer</li> <li>• Patient hand off from OR nurse &amp; anesthetist</li> <li>• Isolation precautions</li> <li>• Care of CBI</li> </ul>
<p>Under the <b>direct supervision</b> of a <b>Certified Registered Nurse</b>, the nursing student may perform the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arterial/Central – level and zero (calibrate) transducer</li> <li>• Identify reference point for hemodynamic monitoring</li> <li>• Monitor and titrate IV (including central line) infusions</li> <li>• Regulate or change oxygen delivery systems including BMV, chin tilt, removal of LMA</li> <li>• Insertion/remove oral or nasal airway</li> <li>• PCA, Continuous Peripheral Nerve Blocks and Epidural administration and pump management</li> </ul>

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- Chest tube management
- Removal of arterial catheters
- Administration of IV medications below the drip chamber (direct IV administration)

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:

- Dressing changes /ostomy care
- Suction orally as indicated
- Insert/remove nasogastric tube/Foley catheter
- Removal of JP, hemovac or penrose drain
- Application and management of IPCD
- Care and management of warming/cooling blankets/gowns
- Assisting preceptor with nursing role during procedures performed by physicians
- Processing physician orders (2 RNs must continue to sign medication verification)
- Order entry
- Bladder irrigation (manual or CBI)
- Performing a bladder scan
- Deliver report for transfer of care (RN to supervise until competent, then on own)

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

- Delegated Controlled Acts
- Defibrillation/cardioversion
- Blood specimen withdrawal
- Telephone orders from physicians
- Removal of epidural catheters
- Ventilated patients
- Co-sign independent double checks
- Double check for blood products
- Glucometer checks

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

### References and Related Documents

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

College of Nurses of Ontario Practice Guidelines. Supporting Learners. 2017.