

Safe Practice in the Clinical/Laboratory Settings

Purpose/Explanation of Policy or Procedure

The purpose of setting safe performance clinical standards is to: 1) identify expectations of the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation; 2) to comply with licensure regulations and agency agreements; and 3) to identify and help students who need assistance and support to succeed in the nursing program.

Policy/Procedure text

The student in the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation is expected to demonstrate safe behavior which includes promoting the actual or potential well-being of clients, healthcare workers, and self in the biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural realms and demonstrating accountability in preparation for, provision and documentation of nursing care.

Indicators to be used as guidelines for educating students and determining safe performance are:

A. Regulatory: Students practice within the boundaries of the Arizona State Nurse Practice Act, the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses; the guidelines, objectives and policies of the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation; and the rules and regulations of the healthcare agency where they are assigned for clinical learning experience. Students are also required to obey all applicable laws.

Examples of unsafe practice include but are not limited to the following:

- a. fails to notify the agency and/or instructor of clinical absence
- b. fails to follow the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation and/or agency policies and procedures
- c. reports for or demonstrates impairment during clinical practicum under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol

B. Ethical: The student performs according to the guidelines of the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses, Standards of Practice, and the Arizona State Nurse Practice Act. Students must be able and willing to accept professional supervision from faculty and other supervisors and effectively integrate feedback they perceive.

Examples of unsafe practice include but are not limited to the following:

- a. fails to consult with instructor prior to refusing assignment based on medical diagnosis, race, culture, religious preference, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, handicapping condition or any other protected status category of the client
- b. denies, covers-up or does not report own errors in clinical practice
- c. ignores and fails to report unethical behavior of other healthcare persons in the clinical setting which affects client welfare

C. Biological, Psychological, Social, and Cultural Realms: The student's performance recognizes and seeks to meet the needs of the client from a biological, psychological, sociological, and cultural standpoint at the level of the nursing course objectives.

Examples of unsafe practice include but are not limited to the following:

- a. displays mental, physical, or emotional behavior(s) which may adversely affect others' well being

- b. fails to follow through on suggested referrals or interventions to correct deficit areas which may result in harm to others
- c. commits acts of omission or commission in the care of clients in hazardous positions, conditions, or circumstances; mental or emotional abuse; and medication errors
- d. interacts inappropriately with agency staff, co-workers, peers, patients/clients, families, faculty resulting in miscommunication, disruption of client care and/or unit functioning
- e. lacks physical coordination essential for carrying out nursing procedures
- f. lacks information processing ability necessary for making appropriate clinical judgments or decisions

D. Accountability: The student's performance demonstrates consistency in responsible preparation, documentation, and promotion for the healthcare of clients, according to course objectives.

Examples of unsafe practice include but are not limited to the following:

- a. fails to provide inclusive written communication on appropriate documents or verbal communication to faculty and/or appropriate agency personnel
- b. fails to accurately record essential client behaviors
- c. fails to report incompetent, unethical or illegal practice of any person
- d. attempts activities without adequate orientation, theoretical preparation or appropriate assistance
- e. fails to maintain honesty in clinical practice and/or written work
- f. is habitually tardy to clinical practicum

E. Human Rights: The student's performance demonstrates respect for the individual, client, health team member, faculty, and self-including but not limited to the legal, ethical, and cultural realms.

Examples of unsafe practice include but are not limited to the following:

- a. fails to maintain confidentiality of interactions
- b. fails to maintain confidentiality of records
- c. exhibits dishonesty in relationships with peers, faculty, clients/patients and/or agency personnel
- d. fails to recognize and promote every patient's rights

Glossary of Terms/Definitions/Sources

- Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation BSN Handbook
- American Nurses Association: Code of Ethics for Nurses
- Arizona State Nurse Practice Act <http://www.azbn.gov/NursePracticeAct.aspx>
- Arizona State University Board of Regents Code of Conduct
http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_regents/policymanual/chap5.

Forms/Process Examples: N/A