

COLLEGE OF NURSING

PRECEPTOR ORIENTATION **HANDBOOK**

ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSE PROGRAM

Fall Semester – 2010-2011



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➤ AHI – Adult Health and Illness

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Sue Barnason, PhD, Office Phone: 402-472-7359, Fax: 402-472-7345, sbarnaso@unmc.edu
- **Specialty Coordinator:** Bunny Pozehl, PhD, Office Phone: 402-472-7352, Fax: 402-472-7345

➤ CBH – Community Based Health

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Kathy Kaiser, PhD, Office Phone: 402-559-6576, Fax: 402-559-6379, kkaiser@unmc.edu

➤ Children's Health Nursing

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Peggy Pelish, PhD, Office Phone: 402-559-6550, Fax: 402-559-6379, ppelish@unmc.edu

➤ FNP – Family Nurse Practitioner

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Kathy Morris, PhD, Office Phone: 402-559-6566, Fax: 402-559-6379, kjmorris@unmc.edu

➤ Gerontology

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Claudia Chaperon, PhD, Office Phone: 402-559-8928, Fax: 402-559-6379, cchapero@unmc.edu

➤ Nursing Administration

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Karen Grigsby, PhD, Office Phone: 402-559-6622, Fax: 402-559-4303, kgrigsby@unmc.edu

➤ Psychiatric Mental Health

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Julia Houfek, PhD, Office Phone: 402-559-6542, Fax: 402-559-6379, jhoufek@unmc.edu

➤ Women's Health

- **Specialty Coordinator:** Jan Twiss, PhD, Office Phone: 402-559-6571, Fax: 402-559-6379, jtwiss@unmc.edu

THE ROLE OF THE PRECEPTOR

The College of Nursing Graduate Faculty would like to thank you for taking time to be a preceptor for one of our students. The role of the preceptor is important in shaping the development of a nurse practitioner. We recognize that it takes time to supervise a student and we appreciate the additional time you give to each student. As the semester advances, the student will become more accomplished and require less supervision on your part and should begin to facilitate your client case load.

PRECEPTOR

➤ In the role as a preceptor, you should:

- Review semester objectives and goals to facilitate clinical learning.
- Review daily objectives to be discussed with you at the beginning of each clinical day.
- Create a learning environment for the student and facilitate the critical thinking skills required of a nurse practitioner.
- Be available to hear the student's case presentation
- To see the patient with the student
- Provide feedback about the assessment and proposed plan of care
- Be with the student for all new procedures
- Re-check all abnormal examination findings identified by the student, as well evaluate the student's management plan for these problems
- Always be present in the clinical area during the student's experience, and name a qualified substitute if you have to leave the clinic
- **Ensure that you co-sign all entries in the patient's health/medical record**
- Complete the Clinical Preceptor Assessment of Student Progress assessment form enclosed in this handbook (NOTE: We ask that this form be completed at the end of the semester and returned by faxing it to **Ken Couey, Preceptor Program Support, at 402-559-4303**, or by giving it to the student and asking them to return it to their **Clinical Faculty**).

In addition, it would be helpful to provide the student with the opportunity to develop a differential diagnosis and problem list for the patient. Depending on the level of the student (beginning, middle, or advanced), they will participate alone or with assistance for performance of the history and physical examinations, ordering necessary lab data, analyzing assessments, proposing appropriate diagnostic and/or therapeutic plans, and documenting the encounter. Students should show progress in skill and clinical judgment as they proceed through each course and semester. The preceptor has a right to ask that the student be placed in another learning environment if problems arise that cannot be resolved.

CLINICAL FACULTY

➤ Clinical faculty will:

- Contact you and setup prior arrangements with the student and yourself to visit the clinical site (if feasible), for evaluating the student's performance at various times throughout the semester.
- Evaluate the student's performance at mid-term and at the end of the semester. (NOTE: The preceptor will provide input into the evaluation process by completing the enclosed Clinical Preceptor Assessment of Student Progress. Please contact the clinical faculty member with any questions, concerns, or comments.

STUDENTS

The student also has responsibility to the Preceptor to be prepared, ask questions, and to identify their own strengths and weaknesses. They are also expected to ask for assistance with new procedures or learning opportunities and to seek confirmation with any findings of which they may be unsure. The student should show evidence of utilizing the clinical experience for advanced learning.

Scope of Practice for Nurse Practitioners



PROFESSIONAL ROLE

Nurse Practitioners are licensed independent practitioners who practice in ambulatory, acute and long term care as primary and/or specialty care providers. According to their practice specialty they provide nursing and medical services to individuals, families and groups. In addition to diagnosing and managing acute episodic and chronic illnesses, nurse practitioners emphasize health promotion and disease prevention. Services include, but are not limited to ordering, conducting, supervising, and interpreting diagnostic and laboratory tests, and prescription of pharmacologic agents and non pharmacologic therapies. Teaching and counseling individuals, families and groups are a major part of nurse practitioner practice.

As licensed independent practitioners, nurse practitioners practice autonomously and in collaboration with health care professionals and other individuals to assess, diagnose, treat and manage the patient's health problems/needs. They serve as health care researchers, interdisciplinary consultants and patient advocates.

EDUCATION

Entry level preparation for nurse practitioner practice is at the master's, post master's or doctoral level. Didactic and clinical courses prepare nurses with specialized knowledge and clinical competency to practice in primary care, acute care and long term health care settings. Self-directed continued learning and professional development beyond the formal advanced education is essential to maintain clinical competency.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The autonomous nature of the nurse practitioner's advanced clinical practice requires accountability for health care outcomes. Insuring the highest quality of care requires certification, periodic peer review, clinical outcome evaluations, a code for ethical practice, evidence of continuing professional development and maintenance of clinical skills. Nurse practitioners are committed to seeking and sharing knowledge that promotes quality health care and improves clinical outcomes. This is accomplished by leading and participating in both professional and lay health care forums, conducting research, and applying findings to clinical practice.

RESPONSIBILITY

The role of the nurse practitioner continues to evolve in response to changing societal and health care needs. As leaders in primary and acute health care, nurse practitioners combine the roles of provider, mentor, educator, researcher and administrator. Members of the profession are responsible for advancing the role of the nurse practitioner and insuring that the standards of the profession are maintained. This is accomplished through involvement in professional organizations and participation in health policy activities at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Administration
P.O. Box 12846
Austin, TX 78711
p 512.442.4262
f 512.442.6469
www.aanp.org

Office of Health Policy
P.O. Box 40130
Washington, DC 20016
p 202.966.6414
f 202.966.2856

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Standards of Practice for Nurse Practitioners

Administration

P.O. Box 12846 • Austin, TX 78711

p 512.442.4262 • f 512.442.6469

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Standards of Practice

I. Qualifications

Nurse Practitioners are licensed independent practitioners who provide primary and/or specialty nursing and medical care in ambulatory, acute and long term care settings. They are registered nurses with specialized advanced education and clinical competency to provide health and medical care for diverse populations in a variety of primary care, acute and long term care settings. Master's, post master's or doctoral preparation is required for entry level practice. (AANP 2006)

II. Process of Care

The nurse practitioner utilizes the scientific process and national standards of care as a framework for managing patient care. This process includes:

A. Assessment of health status

The nurse practitioner assesses health status by:

- obtaining a relevant health and medical history
- performing a physical examination based on age and history
- performing or ordering preventive and diagnostic procedures based on the patient's age and history
- identifying health and medical risk factors

B. Diagnosis

The nurse practitioner makes a diagnosis by:

- utilizing critical thinking in the diagnostic process
- synthesizing and analyzing the collected data
- formulating a differential diagnosis based on the history, physical examination, and diagnostic test results
- establishing priorities to meet the health and medical needs of the individual, family, or community

C. Development of a treatment plan

The nurse practitioner, together with the patient and family, establishes an evidence based, mutually acceptable, cost-awareness plan of care that maximizes health potential.

Formulation of the treatment plan includes:

- ordering and interpreting additional diagnostic tests
- prescribing/ordering appropriate pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions
- developing a patient education plan
- appropriate consultation/referral

D. Implementation of the plan

Interventions are based upon established priorities.

Actions by the nurse practitioners are:

- individualized
- consistent with the appropriate plan for care
- based on scientific principles, theoretical knowledge, and clinical expertise
- consistent with teaching and learning opportunities

Actions include:

- accurately conducting, supervising, and interpreting diagnostic tests
- prescribing/ordering pharmacologic agents and non pharmacologic therapies
- providing relevant patient education
- making appropriate referrals to other health professionals and community agencies

E. Follow-up and evaluation of the patient status

The nurse practitioner maintains a process for systematic follow-up by:

- determining the effectiveness of the treatment plan with documentation of patient care outcomes
- reassessing and modifying the plan with the patient and family as necessary to achieve health and medical goals

III. Care Priorities

The nurse practitioner's practice model emphasizes:

A. Patient and family education

The nurse practitioner provides health education and utilizes community resource opportunities for the individual and/or family

B. Facilitation of patient participation in self care.

The nurse practitioner facilitates patient participation in health and medical care by providing information needed to make decisions and choices about:

- promotion, maintenance, and restoration of health
- consultation with other appropriate health care personnel
- appropriate utilization of health care resources

C. Promotion of optimal health

D. Provision of continually competent care

E. Facilitation of entry into the health care system

F. The promotion of a safe environment

IV. Interdisciplinary/Collaborative Responsibilities

As a licensed independent practitioner, the nurse practitioner participates as a team leader and member in the provision of health and medical care, interacting with professional colleagues to provide comprehensive care.

V. Accurate Documentation of Patient Status and Care

The nurse practitioner maintains accurate, legible, and confidential records.

VI. Responsibility as Patient Advocate

Ethical and legal standards provide the basis of patient advocacy. As an advocate, the nurse practitioner participates in health policy activities at the local, state, national and international levels.

VII. Quality Assurance and Continued Competence

Nurse practitioners recognize the importance of continued learning through:

- participation in quality assurance review, including systematic review of records and treatment plans on a periodic basis
- maintenance of current knowledge by attending continuing education programs
- maintenance of certification in compliance with current state law
- applying standardized care guidelines in clinical practice

VIII. Adjunct Roles of Nurse Practitioner

Nurse practitioners combine the roles of provider, mentor, educator, researcher, manager and consultant. The nurse practitioner interprets the role of the nurse practitioner to individuals, families, and other professionals.

IX. Research as Basis for Practice

Nurse practitioners support research by developing clinical research questions, conducting or participating in studies, and disseminating and incorporating findings into practice.

ADULT HEALTH AND ILLNESS ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING PROGRAM

ADDENDUM

First Year Clinical Courses

Fall NRSG 811, Advanced Adult Health Assessment and Health Promotion
Spring NRSG 812, Management of Adult Clients with Health Problems I
 + accompanying clinical as Acute Care/Adult NP or Acute Care/Adult CNS

Second Year Clinical Courses

Fall NRSG 814: Management of Adult Clients with Health Problems II
 + accompanying clinical as Acute Care/Adult NP or Acute Care/Adult CNS
Spring

Course

NRSG 811, Advanced Adult Health Assessment and Health Promotion

Course Description

The purpose of this course is the application of advanced knowledge and clinical skills used in assessing, promoting, and maintaining the health of adults. Clinical experiences provide opportunities for students to learn and apply advanced practice skills in history taking, physical examination, diagnostic, and therapeutic procedures.

Competencies

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Apply advanced health assessment knowledge (history and physical exam) on an adult.
2. Evaluate personal interviewing skills for identification of strengths and areas for improvement.
3. Perform clinical techniques and utilize instruments for assessing physical, mental, emotional, social, and family functioning and conduct developmental, cultural, spiritual, environmental, and occupational assessments on adults.
4. Apply developmentally-appropriate, research-based adult health maintenance schedules that consist of health promotion, risk reduction, disease prevention, and early detection interventions.
5. Utilize clinical, ethical, and theoretical literature and research in the assessment and interventions for the health maintenance of adults.

6. Apply developmental, familial, environmental, and lifestyle influences to health promotion and health maintenance care of adults.
7. Apply knowledge of health promotion and maintenance interventions and ensure interventions are based on research, standards, and protocols.

Proposed Clinical Experiences in NRSG 811

Advanced practice nursing students will have completed a laboratory practicum on health assessment. In NU 811 students should be: 1) performing comprehensive health histories and physical examinations; 2) obtaining focused histories and physical examinations; 3) teaching /counseling health promotion (e.g., diet, exercise, and smoking cessation); teaching /counseling disease prevention (e.g., screening tests); beginning interpretation of x-rays, lab work, and other diagnostic tests. Students will want to observe common office procedures such as splinting, suturing, treatment of skin tags. The focus of NRSG 811 is health assessment and not treatment (e.g., pharmaceutical treatment) of disease conditions.

Course

NRSG 812, Management of Adult Clients with Health Problems I

Course Description

NRSG 812 is one of two courses (NRSG 812 and NRSG 814), aimed at assisting students to develop knowledge and skills for advanced practice nursing with adult clients experiencing common acute and chronic health problems. NRSG 812 will address alterations in integumentary, respiratory, musculoskeletal, genitourinary and gastrointestinal systems as well as common mental health problems of adults.

Competencies

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Manage common acute and chronic health problems of adult clients related to alterations in integumentary, respiratory, genitourinary, musculoskeletal and gastrointestinal systems.
2. Conduct focused assessments of adult clients experiencing common health problems.
3. Demonstrate diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision making skills.
4. Provide primary, secondary, and tertiary health care services for clients and families within the scope of practice for advanced practice nurses.
5. Collaborate with clients, families, interdisciplinary team members, and community agencies to promote optimal health based on self direction, mutual goal setting, and active participation.

6. Evaluate the structure, process, and outcomes of care delivered in diverse care settings.
7. Analyze internal and external environmental forces, legal, ethical, socio-cultural, and economic issues affecting clients.
8. Use theories, models, research, standards, and guidelines while providing care to clients and families.
9. Correlate pathophysiology and pharmacology with symptom manifestations and management.
10. Deliver health care that is sensitive to values of clients and their families.

Proposed Clinical Experiences for Clinical Course Accompanying NRSG 812

Advanced practice nursing students in clinical course accompanying 812 will have completed course work in pharmacology, pathophysiology, and health assessment. In this clinical, students should be: 1) performing comprehensive health histories and physical examinations; 2) obtaining focused histories and physical examinations related to minor acute and stable chronic problems; 3) proposing management plans for common health problems seen among adolescent and adult populations; 4) identifying appropriate follow-up; and 5) documenting the encounter in the patient's chart. Examples of the types of patients that students could be seeing are adults with special health promotion needs (e.g., smoking cessation or weight management), adults with respiratory problems (e.g., emphysema or asthma), musculoskeletal problems (e.g., arthritis), women's health problems (e.g., menopausal symptoms), mental health problems (e.g., anxiety), genitourinary problems (e.g., urinary incontinence), and patients with stable chronic illnesses that need health assessment, management plans, and teaching.

Course

NRSG 813, Advanced Practice Nursing in Acute Care

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop knowledge and competencies for advanced nursing practice with adults experiencing acute episodes of common chronic illnesses/problems.

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Correlate pathophysiology, pharmacology, and psychosocial problems with symptom manifestation and management for selected acute episodes of chronic illness/problems.
2. Demonstrate competencies needed in advance practice nursing related to diagnostic and monitoring technology, and procedures.
3. Collaborate and consult with other health care providers appropriately.
4. Develop, implement and evaluate management plans (including structure, process and outcomes) for adults with selected acute episodes of chronic illness/problems.

5. Consider environmental factors, ethical/legal/economic issues, and multicultural influences which impact management plans for adults with selected acute episodes of chronic illness/problems.
6. Evaluate research based standards and protocols for acute episodes of chronic illness/problems and implement change strategies in accordance with agency policies and procedures for management plans.

Proposed Clinical Experiences for Clinical Course Accompanying NRSG 813

Advanced practice nursing students in the clinical course accompanying 813 will have completed course work in pharmacology, pathophysiology, basic health assessment, and common chronic conditions in adult patients. In NRSG 813, students should be focusing on management of adult patients with acute illness or acute exacerbations of chronic health problems in the hospital. Desirable hospital experiences include: daily rounds including progress notes/orders, admission H & Ps, and discharge summaries.

Course

NRSG 814, Management of Adult Clients with Health Problems II

Course Description

NRSG 814 is one of two courses (NRSG 812 and NRSG 814), aimed at assisting students to develop knowledge and skills for advanced practice nursing with adult clients experiencing common acute and chronic health problems. NRSG 814 will address alterations in cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, neurological, endocrine, and immune systems. Seminars will focus on clinical presentation of health problems, the use of assessment and diagnostic reasoning skills in diagnosis, and the use of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions in the delivery of primary, secondary, and tertiary care. Legal, ethical, socio-cultural, and economic issues impacting care of clients will be addressed.

Competencies

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Manage common acute and chronic health problems of adult clients related to alternations in cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, neurological, endocrine and immune systems.
2. Conduct focused assessments of adult clients experiencing common health problems.
3. Demonstrate diagnostic reasoning and clinical decision making skills.
4. Provide primary, secondary, and tertiary health care services for clients and families within the scope of practice for advanced practice nurses.

5. Collaborate with clients, families, interdisciplinary team members, and community agencies to promote optimal health based on self direction, mutual goal-setting, and active participation.
6. Evaluate the structure, process, and outcomes of care delivered in diverse care settings.
7. Analyze internal and external environmental forces, legal, ethical, socio-cultural, and economic issues affecting clients.
8. Use theories, models, research, standards, and guidelines while providing care to clients and families.
9. Correlate pathophysiology and pharmacology with symptom manifestations and management.
10. Deliver health care that is sensitive to values of clients and their families.

Proposed Clinical Experiences for Clinical Course accompanying NRSG 814

Advanced practice nursing students in the clinical course accompanying 814 will have completed course work in pharmacology, pathophysiology, basic health assessment, and the first course (NRSG 812) dealing with health problems of the adult client. In NRSG 814, students should be: 1) performing comprehensive health histories and physical examinations; 2) obtaining focused histories and physical examinations related to minor acute and stable chronic problems; 3) proposing management plans for common health problems seen among adolescent and adult populations; 4) identifying appropriate follow-up; and 5) documenting the encounter in the patient's chart. Examples of the types of patients that students could be seeing are adults with special health promotion needs (e.g., smoking cessation or weight management), adults with cardiovascular problems (e.g., hypertension or hyperlipidemia), adults with endocrine problems (e.g., diabetes or thyroid conditions), adults with neurological problems (e.g. headaches or stroke), and patients with stable chronic illnesses that need health assessment, management plans, and teaching.