Vanderbilt Perioperative Internship Syllabus

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Perioperative Learning Center Mission Statement:
The mission of the Perioperative Learning Center is to provide excellence in the education and training of team members in an effort to deliver safe, competent patient care.

Course Description: The Vanderbilt Perioperative Internship Program is focused on providing training and education to Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses who are either new graduates or have been previously employed in non-OR nursing positions. This 16-week program is designed to equip nurse interns with fundamental skills that are critical for providing patient care in the operating room. The first four weeks comprise the didactic portion of the program, consisting of classroom lectures, lab skills practice, and observational experiences in the operating room. The remaining 12 weeks of the program are spent in service-line rotations designed to familiarize the intern with all surgical specialties practiced at Vanderbilt.

Learner Outcomes:

1. Describe the role of the perioperative nurse when functioning as a scrub nurse and as a circulating nurse.
2. Identify common safety concerns in the operating room.
3. Describe fire safety in the surgical environment.
4. Recognize potential patient injuries in the operating room.
5. Demonstrate safe positioning practices for the surgical patient.
6. Describe and demonstrate practices and goals of aseptic technique in the lab and clinical practice areas of Perioperative Services.
7. Demonstrate basic principles of surgical preps in the lab and clinical practice areas.
8. Identify four processes for disinfection/sterilization of equipment and instrumentation used in the operating room.

9. Identify the four surgical wound classes and explain the criteria for each class.

10. Demonstrate patient identification and correct site and/or side confirmation for the perioperative patient.

11. Demonstrate intraoperative documentation and the process of recording charges for the perioperative patient.

12. Apply knowledge of sponges, needles, suture, instruments, and the proper procedure for surgical counts in the lab and clinical practice areas.

13. Demonstrate safe administration, handling, and labeling of intraoperative medications.

14. Explain and demonstrate safe handling of surgical specimens.

15. Identify characteristics of the professional perioperative nurse.

16. Identify key components of patient/family education in the perioperative setting.

**Required Texts (will be loaned to the student during the internship program):**


**Professional Organization**


**Perioperative Internship Modules:**

Module 1 – Introduction to Perioperative Nursing
Module 2 – Surgical Environment
Module 3 – Managing Latex Allergies
Module 4 – Perioperative Assessment
Module 5 – Aseptic Technique
Module 6 – Sterilization & Disinfection
Module 7 – Safety in the Surgical Suite
Module 8 – Scrubbing and Circulating
Module 9 – Anesthesia
Module 10 – Medications & Solutions
Module 11 – Wound Healing/Hemostasis/Wound Closure
Module 12 – Wound Classification
Module 13 – Positioning the Surgical Patient
Module 14 – Needles & Sutures
Module 15 – Sponges
Module 16 – Surgical Instruments
Completion of the Internship Program
Please see the section entitled “Criteria for Graduation from the Vanderbilt Perioperative Internship Program” for a description of all requirements that must be met in order to successfully complete the internship program.

Attendance
Attendance is of the utmost importance for the successful completion of the internship program; therefore, attendance is mandatory during both the didactic and clinical portions of the program. If an intern misses more than three days of the didactic portion and/or two weeks of service-line rotations, it may be necessary for the intern to repeat the entire internship program. The Perioperative Nurse Educators and the Patient Care Managers work collaboratively to manage intern schedules, as well as any scheduled or unscheduled absences during the internship. Please refer to the following VUMC policies for more information regarding attendance: HR-012, HR-020, HR-026, HR-029.

Credo:
Vanderbilt University Medical Center is driven by its Credo. As an employee at VUMC, you are required to exemplify the Credo daily. It is the way we do our work!

- Patient/Customer Focus: I will give our patients/customers and their needs my highest priority.
- Problem-solving: I will take responsibility for finding a solution to any problem or complaint.
- Accountability: I will do my part to ensure the success of VUMC.
- Service Excellence: We provide excellence in health care, education, and research.
- Respect for All Others: We treat others as we wish to be treated.
- Continuous Improvement: We continuously evaluate and improve our performance.
Physical Requirements/Environment: per job description per code for registered nurses (6657 & 6658) and licensed practical nurses (6725).

Course Schedule
Please see “Course Schedule” section for details regarding activities that will be included in the didactic portion of the internship schedule. The 12 weeks of the program that follow the didactic portion consist of service-line rotations through the surgical specialties. Each intern is provided with an individualized rotation schedule before the rotation phase begins. A sample rotation schedule is as follows:

- Week 1 – circulate general surgery
- Week 2 – scrub general surgery
- Week 3 – circulate neurosurgery
- Week 4 – scrub neurosurgery
- Week 5 – circulate orthopedic surgery
- Week 6 – scrub orthopedic surgery
- Week 7 – circulate ENT/Plastics surgery
- Week 8 – scrub ENT/Plastics surgery
- Week 9 – circulate cardiothoracic surgery
- Week 10 – circulate urologic surgery
- Week 11 – circulate gynecologic surgery
- Week 12 – scrub gynecologic surgery
PERIOPERATIVE INTERNSHIP AGREEMENT

The syllabus for the Vanderbilt Perioperative Internship Program has been reviewed with me. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and fully understand the content herein. I agree to abide by the guidelines established in this syllabus for the Internship Program.

Intern Name:_____________________________________________

Signature:_______________________________________________

Date:___________________________

Vanderbilt Medical Center