Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse Residency 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 Nurse Residency Program is focused on providing training and education to Registered Nurses (RNs) and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) who are either new graduates or have been previously employed in non-OR nursing positions. The program is also strongly recommended for RNs and LPNs who have not worked in the intraoperative setting for five years or more. This 12-week program is designed to equip nurses with fundamental skills that are critical for providing patient care in the operating room. The first three weeks comprise the didactic portion of the program, consisting of classroom lectures, lab skills practice, and observational experiences in the operating room. The remaining 9 weeks of the program are spent in service-line rotations designed to familiarize the nurse resident with the various 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 nurse residency program):


Professional Organization

Association of Operating Room Nurses, Inc. (AORN) 2170 South Parker Rd, Suite 300 Denver, CO 80231-5711, (800) 755-2676, [http://www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org)

Perioperative Course Modules:

Anesthesia
Aseptic Technique
Electrosurgery
Endoscopic Surgery
Fire in the Operating Room
Laser Safety in the Perioperative Suite
Malignant Hyperthermia
Managing Latex Allergies
Medications & Solutions
Needles & Sutures
Perioperative Assessment
Positioning the Surgical Patient
Professionalism
Safety in the Surgical Suite
Scrubbing and Circulating  
Scrubbing, Gowning, & Gloving  
Skin Preps  
Sterilization & Disinfection  
Surgical Counts  
Surgical Draping  
Surgical Environment  
Surgical Instruments  
The Care and Handling of Intraoperative Surgical Specimens  
Tourniquets & Implants  
Trauma  
Wound Classification  
Wound Healing/Hemostasis/Wound Closure

**Completion of the Perioperative Nurse Residency Program**
Please see the section entitled “Criteria for Graduation from the Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse Residency Program” for a description of all requirements that must be met in order to successfully complete the program.

**Attendance**
Attendance is of the utmost importance for the successful completion of the Perioperative Nurse Residency Program; therefore, attendance is mandatory during both the didactic and clinical portions of the program. If an individual misses more than three days of the didactic portion and/or two weeks of service-line rotations, it may be necessary for the individual to repeat the entire nurse residency program. The Perioperative Nurse Educators and the Patient Care Managers work collaboratively to manage rotation schedules, as well as any scheduled or unscheduled absences during the program. 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 (Phase 1) of the nurse residency program. The 9 weeks following the didactic portion consist of service-line rotations through the surgical specialties (Phase 2). Each individual is provided with a personalized rotation schedule before the rotation phase begins.

A sample rotation schedule for LPNs is as follows:
   Week 1 – circulate general surgery
   Week 2 – scrub general surgery
   Weeks 3 and 4 – circulate neurosurgery
   Weeks 5 and 6 – circulate ENT/plastics surgery
   Weeks 7 – circulate orthopedic surgery
   Weeks 8 and 9 – scrub orthopedic surgery

A sample rotation schedule for RNs is as follows:
   Weeks 1 and 2 – circulate general surgery
   Weeks 3 and 4 – circulate neurosurgery
   Weeks 5 and 6 – circulate orthopedic surgery
   Weeks 7 and 8 – circulate ENT/plastics surgery
   Week 9 – scrub home service

Upon completion of the residency program, individuals will begin service-line orientation (Phase 3), which is designed to promote the development of service-specific skills under the guidance of a preceptor, with the goal of achieving independent practice. Upon completion of Phase 3, the employee will have a six-month evaluation done by their Patient Care Manager.

PERIOPERATIVE NURSE RESIDENCY PROGRAM AGREEMENT
The syllabus for the Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse Residency 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 program.

Name:_____________________________________________
Signature:_______________________________________________
Date:___________________________