Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse 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 Nurse Internship 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 intern 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 internship 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
- Isolation Precautions
- Laser Basics
- Laser Safety
- 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 Internship Program
Please see the section entitled “Criteria for Graduation from the Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse Internship 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 Internship 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 internship 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 internship program. The 9 weeks following the didactic portion consist of service-line rotations through the surgical specialties (Phase 2). All elements of Phases 1 and 2 must be completed within the first 90 days of the nurse internship program. Should circumstances arise that prolong a nurse intern’s time in Phases 1 and 2 beyond 90 days, the nurse intern’s manager will handle the situation on an individual basis. Each individual is provided with a personalized rotation schedule before the rotation phase begins.

Sample rotations for each operative area would be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult ENT/Plastics</th>
<th>Medical Center East (MCE)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1-6 ENT</td>
<td>Week 1-7 MCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7 General surgery</td>
<td>Week 8 Orthopedic surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8 Neurosurgery</td>
<td>Week 9 Neurosurgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9 Orthopedic surgery</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Adult Neurosurgery</th>
<th>Adult Orthopedic Surgery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1-6 Neurosurgery</td>
<td>Week 1-6 Orthopedic surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7 General Surgery</td>
<td>Week 7 ENT/Plastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 ENT/Plastics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9 Orthopedic Surgery</td>
<td>Week 9 Neurosurgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1-6 4 South</td>
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<td>Week 7-9 MCE</td>
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**Vanderbilt Orthopedic SurgiCenter & Cardiac Surgery**
Service line orientation will be arranged by the Patient Care Manager and/or Charge Nurse.

**Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital (VCH)**
Service line orientation will be arranged by the VCH nurse educator.
Nurse interns working in adult units will complete rotation folders which are distributed to each nurse intern during the didactic portion of the program. The folder contains the following:

- Weekly Feedback forms that the nurse intern and preceptor complete together regarding the nurse intern’s performance during the week.
- Case Log forms that the nurse intern utilizes to document all cases observed during their service-line rotations.
- Service-line orientation materials that are intended to help the nurse intern focus on specific procedures and equipment in each service. The nurse intern and preceptor will sign and date each item on the list once the nurse intern has had the opportunity to become familiar with the case/equipment.

The nurse intern is expected to be familiar with the contents of the folder, to have the folder in the OR each day for ready access, and to be responsible for the timely completion of all portions of the folder. *Successful completion of the nurse internship program shall not be achieved until a completed folder is submitted to the nurse educators.*

Upon completion of the internship 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. The total orientation period for a nurse intern is six months (180 days). The nurse intern’s progress will be continuously monitored by nurse educators, managers, charge nurses, and preceptors during the 90-day probationary period.
Criteria for Graduation from the

Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse Internship Program

The following criteria must be met to successfully complete the

nurse internship program:

1. All individuals must successfully complete the didactic portion of class by passing tests with a composite score of at least 90%.

2. All individuals must successfully complete the hands-on scrub portion of class by:
   a. Demonstration of skills to instructors in lab practice on three separate occasions, without coaching.
   b. Passing a scrub skills check-off test with a passing score of 90% on the first attempt.
      i. Test will be graded by demonstration of skills without coaching.
      ii. For each item missed, two points will be subtracted.
      iii. For each breach in sterility not recognized and corrected by the student, five points will be subtracted.
      iv. If hands are dropped below waist, three points will be subtracted.

3. Successful completion of all service line rotations as evidenced by positive feedback from preceptors and direct observations by instructors.

4. Submission of a completed service-line rotation folder to the nurse educators at the conclusion of the rotational period (applies only to nurse interns working in adult Perioperative Services).

If an individual does not complete the scrub skills check-off successfully on the first attempt, he/she will be scheduled to return to Oxford House on three separate occasions for additional skills practice with the nurse educators. The individual will also be strongly encouraged to study written material pertaining to the check-off in preparation for the second attempt. **If the individual fails to pass the second check-off with a score of 90%, then the individual cannot successfully complete the Perioperative Nurse Internship Program.** The Perioperative Nurse Educators and the employee’s Patient Care Manager will then meet to determine which of the following two recommendations will be offered to the employee: 1) the individual will repeat the entire internship program or 2) the individual will need to transfer to another department. A second meeting will be scheduled with the employee to discuss the recommendation.
PERIOPERATIVE NURSE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
AGREEMENT

The syllabus for the Vanderbilt Perioperative Nurse 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 program.

Name:_____________________________________________

Signature:_______________________________________________

Date:___________________________