

PORTER AND CHESTER INSTITUTE Practical Nursing Program

Essential Functions of Nursing Students

Vision: Able to access patient's health status using visual inspection and observation to detect changes in physical appearance, contour, and color. Able to accurately read labels on medications, calibration devices such as syringes and manometers, various monitoring devices, and written communication.

Hearing: Must have hearing within normal range to elicit and detect pertinent information while communicating with patients and health team. Must be able to detect changes in patient condition through accurate use of such auditory monitoring devices, such as stethoscope and to hear and respond to mechanical alarms.

Speech: Able to verbally communicate using the English language in an understandable manner to assess and impart information concerning patient status, to effectively complete patient/family teaching and to interact with the health care team.

Walking/Standing: Prolonged periods of walking/standing occur while in the clinical area. In addition, stairs must be negotiated.

Sitting: Required to be seated in class, computer lab, and clinical conferences, and while charting in the clinical area.

Lifting/Carrying: Required to lift and carry medical supplies, medications and charts with an average lifting requirement of 10-50 pounds. Required to transfer, move, and lift patients when performing in the demonstration lab and the clinical area. Assistance should be requested when patient lifting or repositioning is under taken.

Depth Perception: Needed to recognize that objects have depth, height, and width. Must be able to describe observations of wounds, lesions, etc. Effectively assist clients with rehabilitative process of ambulation, stair climbing, and transferring techniques. Required for fine task performance when using medical supplies for insertion into the body or medication preparation and administration by injection technique.

Fine Motor Skills: Must be able to perform nursing procedures, assist physicians with examinations, handle and control medical equipment, tubings, and specimens. Must be able to write clearly on all required reports and records.

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Essential Functions of Nursing Students (continued)

Tactile Sensation: Must be able to have an awareness or feeling of conditions within or without the body by using the fingers and hands to touch. The individual must be able to feel vibrations, pulses, and temperature of skin. Also must be able to grasp and easily manipulate equipment when providing patient care.

Pushing/Pulling: Positioning, pulling, and pushing are required in preparing patients for scheduled procedures and in transferring patients and medical equipment. Pushing is required to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation which requires sufficient physical function of the upper and lower body to effectively complete CPR technique.

Bending/Reaching/Twisting: Considerable reaching, stooping, bending, kneeling, and crouching are required when bathing patients, making beds, and in setting up and monitoring equipment.

Temperament: The skills essential to nursing include critical thinking abilities and the ability to adapt to varying pressures in times of stress or crisis and in unpredictable situations. Must demonstrate self-control and ability to accept limits and suggestions. Must display sensitivity to patient comfort and privacy and express interest in patient progress while interacting in a caring and professional manner. Will be exposed to body fluids, communicable diseases, and unpleasant elements (e.g. accidents, injuries, illness). Will be provided with the knowledge and skills related to own protection and the protection of others. Emotional stability is needed to maintain a therapeutic relationship with patients, families, and health care team members. Therapeutic communication and interaction must be effective to meet the unique needs of various patient populations served, i.e. geriatric, middle-aged, young adults, etc. The student nurse may not pose a significant risk to the health, safety, and well-being of those in the school, clinical area, or any significant affiliating agency.

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I certify that I have read and understood the handout regarding the “Essential Functions of Nursing Students” and that I meet these requirements. If, at any time I am unable to fulfill any of the requirements, I may be required to provide documentation from a healthcare provider to remain in the Practical Nursing program.

In addition, I understand that, if I develop a health condition, which in the sole judgment of the Nursing Education Supervisor is a contra-indication to participation in off-site clinical experiences, I will not be able to attend clinical classes until this condition is resolved. I understand that I may be required to provide a doctor’s note prior to re-admittance to clinical classes and that a prolonged duration of such a condition may necessitate a withdrawal from the program.

By completing the acknowledgement form, I certify that the items listed above pertinent to my program were covered with me prior to enrolling.