



Origination 10/12/2017
Last 7/14/2022
Approved
Effective 7/14/2022
Last Revised 7/14/2022
Next Review 7/13/2024

Owner Faculty Organization
Policy Area College of Nursing CNG
Applicability MVHS

Safe and Unsafe Clinical Practice, CNG-100.20

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define safe and unsafe clinical practice and the consequences of unsafe clinical practice in the student nurse role in the nursing laboratory and clinical setting.

SCOPE

Students, Faculty, Administration

REFERENCES

QSEN. (2020). *QSEN competencies: Safety*. QSEN Institute Competencies. <https://qsen.org/competencies/pre-licensure-ksas/>

DEFINITIONS / ABBREVIATIONS

Safe performance, clinically, is defined as behavior that exhibits consistent progress toward achievement of course objectives, i.e., increasing skill in the utilization of the nursing process especially in the area of evaluating nursing care, group dynamics and team interaction.

Unsafe performance is defined as behavior which jeopardizes the client's, learner's or other's physical and/or emotional safety even though actual harm may not ensue.

PROCEDURE / DIRECTIVE

1. Learners are expected to apply knowledge and skills from previous and concurrent courses.
2. The learner is expected to be prepared academically, mentally, and physically for all clinical experiences in order to provide safe, competent care.

3. The learner is expected to participate in only those procedures that have been approved or supervised by a faculty member.

4. Examples of unsafe practice include but are not limited to:

- Failure to be prepared
- Failure to accurately report and record observations
- Failure to adhere to the rights of medication administration
- Failure to follow institutional policies, e.g. safety, infection control, procedures
- Failure to protect a client's worth and dignity
- Creating an environment of anxiety and distress
- Errors of omission, as well as commission
- Evidence of being impaired (including sleep deprivation) that may affect the provision of safe client care (see the Reasonable Suspicion of Drug and/or Alcohol Abuse policy CNG-100.29)
- Participating in an unapproved clinical activity

5. A pattern of clinical behavior that is inconsistent regarding preparation, application of principles, delivery of care, selection of priorities, and evaluating care shall be considered **unsafe**.

6. The instructor may dismiss the unprepared student from the clinical setting.

- A. An alternate assignment may be given to the student if dismissed from the clinical setting.
- B. A Clinical Support/Advisement Record, Plan for Improvement, and/or Progressive Discipline may be initiated (see the Clinical Support/Advisement of Students policy CNG-100.46 and Progressive Discipline policy CNG-100.39).

7. The Dean of Student and Faculty Development will be notified of any student dismissed from the clinical setting.

CONTENT EXPERT(S) / RESEARCHER(S) / CONTRIBUTOR(S):

This Document Replaces:

NSG-CNG-100.20

Attachments

[Clinical Support Record \(CNG-100.20\).pdf](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Owner	Faculty Organization	7/14/2022

COPY