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OPINION: ROLE OF CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR
APPROVED: X NOT APPROVED:
DATE: 09/16
REVISED DATE: xx/xx
ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Within the Scope of Practice of X RN LPN

ADVISORY OPINION

THE ROLE OF THE CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

STATEMENT OF SCOPE: It is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse, who meets the qualifications specified in Arizona Administrative Code Title 4, Chapter 19, Article 2 to serve as clinical instructor for RN or LPN pre-licensure students in an approved nursing program. Rule 4-19-206 requires that programs provide clinical practice experience as part of student clinical learning. Additionally under Rule 4-19-205 (A) the number of students admitted to a program is determined by the program resources including the number of available faculty and clinical site rotation availability. This Advisory Opinion is intended to cover direct clinical instruction in clinical rotations and not intended to cover clinical preceptor supervision. Please see A.A.C. R4-19-206 (E) for regulations pertaining to preceptorships.

I. NURSING PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- A.** Ensure that the clinical instructor has education and experience appropriate to the clinical setting where students are assigned.
- B.** Have specific policies and procedures for clinical instructor supervision of students.
- C.** Provide orientation for the clinical instructor that includes:
 - a.** Orientation to the college, program, course and faculty role.
 - b.** Orientation to the clinical site/agency and unit(s).
 - c.** Introduction to faculty resources.
 - d.** Expectations for faculty performance consistent with implementation of college/program/course/clinical agency/unit policies.
 - e.** Orientation to the program process for assessment, evaluation and recording of student learning and management of student concerns.
- D.** Have a designated and qualified administrator who shall ensure the oversight of clinical faculty and clinical experiences including, but not limited to: review of student evaluations of faculty and clinical sites, evaluation of the faculty according to R4-19-203 (C) (5), and observation faculty instruction at the clinical site.

II. CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

In all clinical settings, the nursing clinical instructor shall:

- A. Adhere to relevant policies and procedures of the academic institution and clinical agency.
- B. Have demonstrated clinical competence in the setting where students are assigned.
- C. Orient to the clinical agency, introduce self and students to clinical personnel, and provide student learning outcomes and goals to clinical personnel.
- D. Provide students with contact information for the clinical instructor.
- E. Clearly communicate clinical expectations to students.
- F. Provide each student with individual instruction consistent with the patient assignment.
- G. Review with student the appropriate documentation that should be included in the patient record.
- H. Refer students who do not meet expectations to campus resources for additional support.
- I. Assess, evaluate, and document student learning activities and performance each clinical day.
- J. Provide timely and constructive feedback to students regarding assignments and clinical performance.
- K. For any acute care, long term care, rehabilitation setting or any other health care setting where a patient receives 24 hour care or as applicable:
 - 1) Arrive at clinical setting on the scheduled day at the scheduled clinical time and remain in the facility/campus with students as scheduled
 - 2) Visit each student's assigned patient or patients, as applicable and assess the student's care in relation to the patient's condition.
 - 3) Assist students in their care and/or or evaluate each student's performance of skills and nursing responsibilities.

III. RATIONALE

Deliberate and planned clinical instruction of nursing students protects patients, supports student learning and fosters beneficial partnerships between nursing programs and clinical agencies.

IV. REFERENCES

Gaberson, K., Oermann, M., and Shellenbarger, T. (2014). *Clinical Teaching Strategies in Nursing*, 4th Edition. New York; Springer.

O'Connor, A. (2015). *Clinical Instruction and Evaluation*. Burlington, MA; Jones and Bartlett.

V. RELEVANT STATUTES AND RULES

ARS §32-1601(20) "Registered nursing" includes the following:

- (j) Teaching nursing knowledge and skills.

A.A.C. Rule 4-19-203. Administrator; Qualifications and Duties

8. Together with faculty develop, enforce and evaluate both student and faculty policies regarding minimal requisite nursing skills and knowledge necessary to provide safe patient care for the type of unit and patient assignment;

A.A.C. Rule 4-19-204. Faculty; Personnel Policies; Qualifications and Duties;

D. The faculty shall supervise all students in clinical areas in accordance with the acuity of the patient population, clinical objectives, demonstrated competencies of the student, and requirements established by the clinical agency.