

NURS 7650 – Adult Acute Care Practicum

The student will:

- Analyze presentations of illness and determine correct diagnoses in clients with selected acute care problems.
- Propose appropriate intervention plans and case management for individuals and groups of clients with selected acute care problems.
- Use a collaborative model to provide direct services to clients with selected acute care problems and acute exacerbations of chronic illness by:
 - assessing clients using appropriate general and specialized skills;
 - performing advanced interventions; and
 - evaluating outcomes
- Assess clients for the presence of symptoms and human responses that commonly accompany acute exacerbations of chronic illness.
- Implement management for symptoms and human responses that commonly accompany acute exacerbations of chronic illness.
- Collaborate and consult with physicians and other providers within health care systems in order to provide effective care.
- Demonstrate independent and interdependent decision making and direct accountability for clinical judgment.
- Complete learning experiences and demonstrate competence in performing technical skills using patient simulation devices. This objective will be based on individual learning objectives and course requirements for minimal achievement.
- Develop diagnostic skills through application of medical decision making concepts.
- Consider health risks that are specific to the geriatric population and make changes to the medical treatment plan to minimize those risks.

Students will work with a preceptor in an acute health care setting to integrate and synthesize knowledge about health and disease using research findings and an advanced knowledge of pharmacology and therapeutics in order to apply this knowledge to the needs of patients and their families. Clinical conferences/seminars include discussion of the nurse practitioner role within the context of state and national health issues; presentation and analysis of clinical cases, and discussion of other clinical topics. Students develop diagnostic skills through application of medical decision making concepts. Procedural skills are developed using simulation models.

This course is designed to teach assessment and management of patients who are acutely ill or have an acute exacerbation of chronic illness. The purpose of the clinical seminars are to development clinical skills required when caring for an acutely ill patient. In addition to assessment and management, the student will be taught differential diagnosis, lab and radiological interpretation, and how to formulate a plan of care. Clinical experiences with preceptors in the acute care settings are intended to promote the learning of these skills. In addition to acquiring new clinical skills, the student will have the opportunity to shadow other professions who also contribute to patient care in the acute care setting.

In the first few days of the clinical rotation you may choose to have the student follow you to allow the student to better understand your clinical approach to patient care. By the end of the rotation, the student should have progressed from shadowing to the beginning phases of providing patient care. This should include obtaining a medical history from the patient or the patient's family, performing a physical exam, reviewing pertinent diagnostic studies, formulation of a differential diagnosis, and proposing an assessment and plan for the patient.

The student will receive two clinical evaluations conducted by a faculty member during the semester. At least one of these will be at your clinical site. During these visits we do not want to interrupt patient care. The faculty providing the site visit will not be involved in the care of the patient; but will be there to observe the student's progression in obtaining a history, conducting an appropriate physical exam, and his/her interaction with you and the staff. We also would like to discuss with you any comments or concerns regarding the student or our program.

We do ask you to complete an evaluation of the student in the middle and the end of the semester and review this with the student. The student will need to receive the completed evaluation forms from you. Your evaluation of the student progression is important, and is used to determine the student's final grade. The student will provide you with the evaluation forms.

Lead Instructor Contact Information:

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