

PERIOPERATIVE NURSING INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This program will provide registered nurses with basic knowledge and clinical skills necessary to function independently in an entry level perioperative nursing position. Content includes extensive classroom and clinical experience in aseptic technique as well as specific considerations for various types of surgical procedures and specialty services in the circulating role.

OBJECTIVES:

At the completion of this course the RN will be able to:

1. Understand the role and responsibilities of the perioperative nurse.
2. Apply principles of asepsis to nursing practice.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and principles of sterilization and disinfection.
4. Demonstrate proficiency and independence in performing selected clinical skills as a circulating nurse in the operating room.
5. Support nursing actions with appropriate scientific rationale.
6. Integrate components of the nursing process into the patient's entire perioperative experience.
7. Perform specific nursing actions related to patients undergoing general and local anesthesia.
8. Demonstrate skill in the organization of tasks, time, motion, equipment, supplies, materials and resources.
9. Utilize principles of adult learning in patient, family, and staff education.
10. Practice effective communication techniques in all phases of the perioperative nursing role.
11. Display flexibility, adaptability and self-reliance.
12. Identify behavioral manifestations demonstrated by individuals under stress.
13. Recognize the importance of consideration, co-operation and team work in the OR.
14. Explain alterations in anatomical and physiological functioning that may occur following an operative procedure.
15. Discuss ethical and legal responsibilities of the perioperative nurse.
16. Experience professional growth as a perioperative nurse.

17. Demonstrate proficiency and independence in completing computerized perioperative charting.

COURSE SPECIFICS:

The Operating Room Nurse Internship Program will begin with a concentrated schedule of lectures and demonstrations. Fundamental technical skills will be reviewed. The course will include: Assessment of the surgical patient, basic principles of anesthesia, principles of aseptic technique, surgical positioning, electrosurgery, skin preparation, sterilization, hemostasis, legal & ethical responsibilities. Specialty content will be in the areas of General surgery; Gynecological and Genital Urinary surgery; Cardiothoracic and Vascular surgery; Orthopaedic surgery; Neurological surgery; Ear, Nose and Throat surgery and Plastic/Reconstructive surgery. It will also include a tour or rotation through Short Stay Unit (SSU), Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), Surgical Processing, Holding (preop assessment area), Charge Nurse Orientation 0700-1530, Evening Shift Orientation 1500-2300, Night Shift Orientation 2300-0700, Saturday (In house) with charge nurse 0700-1530, and Saturday Buddy Call 0700-1900. Participating units will not count nurse interns as part of their daily staffing patterns.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Written Exams: Must maintain an 80% average.
2. Skills Performance Exams: Performance of technical skills will be tested in a simulated lab and/or clinical setting. Evaluation will be satisfactory/unsatisfactory.
3. Journal Article/AORN Standard Review: Submit a written synopsis of two current journal articles that are relevant to practice during the next 4 months. Articles must be selected from any current (within the last 2 years) AORN nursing publication. Or submit a written synopsis of two AORN Standards.
4. Inservice Presentation: With internship colleagues, present a topic to the OR staff for a 1 hour presentation, this includes both the Wednesday morning and afternoon inservice groups. Topic must be approved by the Nurse Educator.
5. Suggested: Attend one AORN Local Chapter meeting on the 2nd Monday of the month. Give brief synopsis of meeting to internship colleagues.

6. Case Study: Students selects patient/surgical procedure which he or she is interested in exploring in greater detail. Content should include evidence of Perioperative nursing process, pathophysiology of condition requiring surgical intervention, description of the surgical procedure and nursing interventions. The maximum length is 7 pages. A minimum of two references is required. This case study will be presented orally to internship colleagues and a typed copy submitted to nurse educator.
7. Evaluation: Theory evaluation will be via written exams and class projects. Students must receive a grade average of 80% or above in order to be considered satisfactory for the theory portion of the course. Clinical evaluation will be determined as satisfactory/unsatisfactory by the course instructor and clinical preceptors. Interns must achieve a satisfactory rating in both theory and clinical components in order to complete the course of the internship. Unsatisfactory ratings in clinical performances will be followed by formal counseling from the Nurse Manager. If improvement does not occur within the specified time frame, termination will result.

TEACHING METHODS:

Lecture, videotapes, group study and problem solving, laboratory demonstration with return demonstration, clinical practice, and Intern presentations. It is expected that students will do required readings prior to class.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Gruendemann, Barbara J., and Huth-Meeker, Margaret, Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery, 11th Edition, C. V. Mosby. St. Louis, MO, 1999.

The Nurse Intern is also required to pay for the orientation packet with a check payable to "Operating Room" for \$20.00.

SUGGESTED REFERENCES:

Association of Operating Room Nurses, AORN Standards and Recommended Practices and Guidelines, Association of Operating Room Nurses, Inc., Denver, CO, 1999.

Association of Operating Room Nurses, AORN Journal (Monthly subscription).

The required textbooks will be purchased at the nurse interns expense.

EMPLOYMENT:

Post course graduates of the internship are required to work in one of the following operating rooms: University Hospital, Moran Eye Center or Wasatch Clinic following the completion of the internship. They are required to sign a contract promising to work fulltime (at least 30 hour/week) and for 24 months which starts the first day of the program, Monday, March 4, 2002. It costs the University Hospital over \$23,000 to train nurses who have no OR experience. Graduates are encouraged to take the certification examination given by the "Association of Operating Room Nurses" on completion of two years employment in the OR as a professional nurse.

Upon completion of this intern program, Interns may be placed in UofU's OR, Laser Surgery, Madson (Wasatch) Clinic's operating room or Moran Eye Surgery. In the future, the Huntsman Cancer Institute's operating rooms will be open. They are planning on 4 OR suites. It depends on the needs and positions available of said facilities, as well as the Intern's preferences. There are no day shifts available. We have 4, 8, 10, & 12-hour shifts. It just depends on what is available at the time. Since we are a Trauma 1 Hospital, we have to have coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All University of Utah Operating Room Staff are expected to take call approximately 24-30 hours a month. We also have to take turns working shifts on the holidays.

BENEFITS:

Nurse internships are paid an hourly wage and receive all full-time University Hospital benefits. At the completion of this course, you will receive 144 contact hours. All assignments/course requirements must be completed before Friday, June 21, 2002. You must have your evaluation of this internship program turned into the Nurse Educator by the same date, Friday, June 21, 2002.