

UPSTATE

UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM

AFFILIATING SCHOOL/COLLEGE OF NURSING

PATIENT CARE UNIT ORIENTATION GUIDE

Assignments:

Your instructor will notify you as to where your assignments will be posted. If it is required that you work up your patient(s) prior to the clinical day, please plan to do this between the hours of **1200 – 1300** and **1700 – 2000**. These times are best for the nursing staff and will afford you better access to patient records. You should be neat, clean and in professional attire, including a lab coat and name tag. Jeans are never to be worn in the clinical area, even if you are wearing a lab coat.

Clinical Expectations for Students:

1. Be present and listen to complete report.
2. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the physiology involved in the patient's condition and have a prepared plan of care.
3. Read the Patient Care Plan prior to giving care to the patients and discuss any questions with the nurse regarding the information.
4. Take vital signs at appropriate times and document appropriately.
5. Complete the patient care flow sheets at each bedside before leaving each clinical day.
6. Document according to the unit specific policy.
7. Take responsibility for all patient treatments and care as written in the care plan. If you are unable to perform any ordered treatment, arrangements must be made so that the nurse responsible for your patient can complete the treatment.
8. Medications will be given by the nurse covering your patients. Any exceptions to this must be made between you, the Instructor, and the nurse in charge of the patient. You are expected, however, to be knowledgeable of all your assigned patient's (s) medications including medication rationale and side effects.

9. Direct technical questions to your instructor first, seeking out the patient's nurse for any further clarification.
10. When you leave the patient care unit to take any type of break, you must first inform the nurse responsible for your patient. Please try to have another student cover your patients while you are away from the patient care unit. Your instructor and the patient's nurse should be apprised of the status of your patient prior to all breaks as well as any care that must be completed in your absence.
11. Communication with your instructor and the patient's nurse is very important. You must report all pertinent information including changes in the patient's condition to your instructor and to the patient's nurse. At the end of your shift, you should provide a comprehensive report on your patient's or patients' condition(s) to the nurse responsible for each of your patients.
12. Direct any problems you are having related to staff, patients, physicians, etc., to your instructor who will in turn determine whether or not to involve the person(s) directly or discuss the issue with the Nurse Manager.