

Norwich University

School of Nursing

BSN Program

STANDARDS OF SAFE CLINICAL PRACTICE

DEFINITION OF SAFE CLINICAL PRACTICE:

Safe clinical practice is a patient-student situation within a live clinical environment which occurs when pre- licensure nursing students who have been adequately prepared demonstrate knowledge of the clinical situation and its risks; communicate with faculty and staff members professionally; and develop appropriate relationships with faculty and staff. (McPherson and Wendler, 2020, p. 520).

Pre-licensure students in the Norwich University School of Nursing BSN program are required to have an understanding and appreciation for patient safety during clinical practice. Students will minimize the risk of harm to patients using standardized practices that support safety and quality. The Norwich University School of Nursing faculty expect that each student will adhere to the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice. Safe clinical practice will include but not be limited to the following behaviors:

1. Students will practice within the limits of the student nurse role and demonstrate safe clinical practice to include protecting patient safety and the absence of patient or student harm (McPherson & Wendler, 2020).
2. Comply with Norwich University School of Nursing instructional nursing policies and procedures related to patient care.

3. Be prepared for each clinical assignment as per course requirements and the patient care setting.
4. Provide nursing care according to nursing principles and previously acquired skills.
5. Students will “communicate observations or concerns related to hazards and errors” to clinical faculty should they occur (McPherson & Wendler, 2020. p. 516) and provide accurate patient report information in oral or written form to appropriate staff when required.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I have read the Norwich University School of Nursing Standards of Safe Clinical Practice, and I agree to adhere to them. “I understand that these standards are expectations for my clinical practice and will be incorporated into the evaluation of my clinical performance in all clinical courses. Failure to meet these standards may result in my removal from the clinical area, which may result in clinical failure due to inability to achieve the required learning outcomes” (Oermann et al, 2023, p. 108).

_____ Signature _____ Date

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SAFE CLINICAL PRACTICE POLICY

POLICY:

During enrollment in the Norwich University School of Nursing BSN Program, all students, in all clinical activities, are expected to adhere to the Standards of Safe Clinical Practice. Failure to abide by these standards will result in disciplinary action, which may include dismissal from the nursing program.

PROCEDURES:

1. Each student will receive a copy of the STANDARDS OF SAFE CLINICAL PRACTICE document. This document will be reviewed at the beginning of the academic year and again when clinical placements are determined. Students will be required to sign the document and abide by the standards therein. Each student will receive a copy of the document, and a copy will be kept in the student's file.
2. Violations of the standards will result in disciplinary action to be dealt with in the following manner:
 - a. First violation
 1. Student will be informed of the violation immediately and given an oral warning by faculty. The details of the infraction will be documented on the Violation of Standards form. The student will receive a copy, and a copy will be placed in the student's record.

2. The faculty member may choose to dismiss the student from the clinical setting for the day, or the student may be given an alternate assignment the remainder of the day.
 3. Depending on the severity of the violation, the student violation may be referred to the associate dean and the dean of the nursing school for any further action deemed necessary as in both section b and c below.
- b. Second Violation
1. Faculty will document the infraction in writing on the Violation of Standards form. Discussion of the infraction will occur with faculty, and a copy of the violation will be forwarded to the associate dean for review. Further action may be taken at this time at the discretion of the associate dean.
 2. Any recommendation from the associate dean will be forwarded to the dean of the nursing school for review and possible reprimand or dismissal from the institution. These actions will be documented in the student's file.
- c. Should the student remain in the program following the second violation, additional violations will be documented as before and referred to both the associate dean and the dean of nursing for disciplinary action to include the possibility of removal from the nursing program.
- d. The student's rights will be protected as per the Norwich University School of Nursing Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct (Oermann et al., 2023).

References

McPherson, S., & Wendler, M. C. (2020). Safe clinical practice in pre-licensure nursing students:

A concept analysis. *Nursing Forum*, 55(3), 513–522. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nuf.12457>

Oermann, M. H. O., Shellenbarger, T., & Gaberson, K. (2023). *Clinical Teaching Strategies in*

Nursing, Sixth Edition. Springer Publishing Company LLC.