

Nursing Skills Review Lab Distance Learning Re-Entry Nursing Project

The Distance Learning Re-Entry Nursing Program requires students to perform nursing skills under RN supervision and complete a skill's checklist documenting review and demonstration of basic nursing skills. It is recommended (but not required, students may review, demonstrate and be checked-off on skills within the required clinical preceptorship), as part of a comprehensive nursing re-entry program, that students participate in a review of skills through demonstration and practice within a nursing skill lab setting *prior to* beginning a clinical preceptorship. This document is intended to assist community colleges within Texas (who wish to host or provide the distance learning re-entry nursing program) in conducting and facilitating the skill lab portion of the re-entry nursing program.

Instructor Qualifications: Must be a registered nurse in the state of Texas and be CPR certified. Prefer a bachelor's degree and work experience in a hospital, clinical setting, or nursing school environment coordinating and scheduling students and preceptors. Instructors should have experience in teaching fundamental nursing skills as a registered nurse.

NOTE: A detailed sample job description for a nursing skills lab instructor is located on the distance learning re-entry nursing project website; Host Site Coordinator II.

Skills Lab Pre-requisites: The minimum recommendation for students to enter a skill lab setting is completion of the on-line orientation and subsequent Units 1 through 3. Students should be completing Unit 3 by the sixth to seventh week of the course (approximately half way through) and should review the specific nursing skills (within the nursing skills textbook) that will be demonstrated and practiced within the skill lab prior to attending a skill lab review.

Skill's Lab Scheduling (see also the Recommended Skills Review, Lab Schedule and Supplies available on –line): Community colleges are encouraged to offer a minimum of two skills lab sessions, lasting eight hours each. Week seven is the approximate mid-point for the on-line course making this an appropriate time to begin the skills lab sessions. Lab sessions can be scheduled according to availability of the nursing skill lab, instructor, and students. Scheduling of skills lab sessions should be early enough within the 16 week course to allow students time to complete the 72 hour clinical preceptorship. The following is a recommended schedule for conducting the skill's lab:

Skills Lab Session 1 (week 7):

- Sterile Technique
- Urinary Catheterization (male/female)
- NT Suctioning / Trach Care
- NG Tubes (placement, irrigation, medication administration, feedings, discontinuing)
- Basic Wound Care

Skills Lab Session 2 (week 8):

- Oral Medication Administration
- Parenteral Medication Administration
- IV Therapy (Starts, Fluid Infusion, IV Medication Administration, Incompatible IV Medication Administration, IV Piggyback (IVPB))
- Phlebotomy

Skills Lab Instruction and Checklist: A *nursing skills checklist* (available on-line) should be provided to the students so that they can document their review and performance of basic nursing skills within the skills lab sessions and within the clinical preceptorship. Successful completion of the review of basic nursing skills is defined as demonstrating 80% of the nursing skills listed on the nursing skills checklist (either within the lab setting or the clinical setting combined). Students should be encouraged to practice and demonstrate as many of the skills as possible that are listed on the nursing skills checklist in both the skill lab sessions and the clinical preceptorship. Following completion of the course, the nursing skills checklist becomes the documentation for the community college that the re-entering nurse reviewed and demonstrated basic nursing skills.

The nursing skills lab instructor should demonstrate the skill using the appropriate equipment to the students and answer any student questions. Students will then practice the skill with the instructor offering support, guidance, and observation. Once the student feels they have mastered the skill, they can then return demonstrate to the instructor the skill and obtain “check-off” on the nursing skills checklist.