

PRECEPTOR INFORMATION SHEET
NURS 5210 FNP Advanced Physical Assessment
Provide a copy to each major preceptor

COURSE OVERVIEW

This advanced health assessment course builds upon basic assessment skills to evaluate persons across the life span. Principles and techniques necessary to complete a total health history, developmental assessment, physical examination and documentation of the findings to form a database are learned. Recognition of pathological signs and symptoms associated with illness and the assessment of health promotion activities is emphasized. Assessment of the woman who is pregnant and her infant and selected diagnostic procedures are included. Ninety (90) clinical hours are required within the outpatient practice setting.

Prerequisite(s): None
Concurrent: Pathophysiology, Pharmacology

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will be able to:

1. Perform a complete advanced health history and physical examination on persons across the life span.
2. Differentiate abnormal physical findings to determine a possible etiology.
3. Perform diagnostic procedures to include pap smears, cervical cultures, wet preps, and microscopic determination of vaginal infection.
4. Synthesize database information to formulate a comprehensive problem list which includes health problems from a nursing, medical, and health promotion perspective.
5. Assess the pregnant woman and her fetus throughout gestation.
6. Synthesize examination findings to determine the health status of the newborn.
7. Evaluate status of infants and children through developmental screening.
8. Differentiate blood cells, urine components and wet prep findings by microscopic examination.

CLINICAL SETTING/PRECEPTOR EXPECTATIONS

This course focuses on building assessment skills to evaluate persons across the lifespan. Principles and techniques necessary to complete a total health history, developmental assessment, physical examination and documentation of the findings to form a database are learned. This course provides a foundation for the major preceptorship courses. Experience in diagnosing and managing the presenting client's health care needs is emphasized in future clinical courses.

Please note: This student is in their initial clinical course for their training. They are in the novice stage of training and will need closer supervision than the student who is close to graduation.

The ideal clinical setting for this course is a full-scope family practice setting which services clients across the lifespan. The student is encouraged to see that the following experiences are provided in the clinical setting:

- A. Participation in the assessment of clients presenting with any ambulatory care problem with emphasis on obtaining the history, practicing correct assessment techniques, and using appropriate equipment.
- B. The opportunity to assess the newborn, child, adolescent, childbearing female, adult, and older adult in the ambulatory setting.
- B. Microscope evaluation of blood smears, wet preps, and urinalysis.

PLEASE NOTE: Pre-signed prescription pads are a FELONY for both the preceptor and student under GA law and thus are NOT ALLOWED. Use of a pre-signed prescription by a student can lead to dismissal from the MSN program.

MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT ISSUES

The School of Nursing Graduate Program has learned of an interpretation of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines that affect nurse practitioner, physician assistant and medical student's documentation of patient visits that are billed to **MEDICARE**. This interpretation was published in Family Practice Management, May, 2000.

The interpretation of these Medicare guidelines is that nurse practitioner (PA and medical) students may document only the Past Medical History, Family Medical History, Social History and Review of Systems for Medicare patients. Other key elements of the visit (History of Present Illness, exam, and medical decision making activities) must be verified and documented (or re-documented) by the supervising nurse practitioner or physician. Simply noting agreement of the student documentation and signing a student note is not acceptable to Medicare.

We at the School of Nursing graduate program acknowledge the inconvenience this interpretation may cause and hope that we may count on your continued support for our nurse practitioner educational program. **In light of the information I am directing the students to be cognizant of this interpretation and to discuss with you how you want them to document their patient encounters.** For my evaluation of their progress, I will require them to document selected encounters on a separate sheet for evaluation of their documentation progress. The FNP faculty are working with professional organizations to urge that these guidelines be amended since FNP students are already licensed registered nurses.

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to meet the needs of the student, preceptor, agency and reimbursement entity. It appears that all of our efforts to provide quality health care become more complicated as the years go by. Hopefully, we can overcome some of the obstacles.

Prior to the course commencing, if you have any questions in regards to preceptor expectations please contact the Graduate Program Office at 912-478-0017. Once the course begins, the student will provide you with course faculty contact information. If you have any concerns about the student or clinical expectations, please contact faculty at any time.