PRECEPTOR HANDBOOK

WOMEN’S HEALTH

ADVANCED PRACTICE PROGRAM

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ROLE OF PRECEPTOR

The role of the preceptor is very important in shaping the end-product of the nurse practitioner, a mid level health care provider in women's health. It is recognized that during the initial semester, more time may be required to supervise a student. The faculty at the College of Nursing appreciate the additional time that you give to each student. As the semester advances and with each new semester, the student will become more accomplished and require less checking on your part and should facilitate your client case load.

The student that is assigned to you will already have a Bachelors Degree in Nursing and may even have a Master's Degree in Maternal-Child Nursing. She will have had clinical nursing experience providing care to women in either an ambulatory or hospital OB/GYN unit. At the completion of this Master's level program, the student will have completed 630 clinical hours and had advanced pharmacology and advanced pathophysiology courses, along with other important didactic nursing courses.

The preceptor does accept the responsibility of helping to create a learning environment for the student. The student should have the opportunity to do history and physical examinations, obtain the necessary laboratory data, make tentative assessments, propose appropriate diagnostic and/or therapeutic plans, and to write up the encounter as part of the permanent chart record. The preceptor should be available to hear the student's case presentation and to see the patient with the student and critique the assessment and proposed plan of care. The preceptor should be with the student for all new procedures. It is important to utilize new and varied experiences for the student.

The preceptor should re-check all abnormal examination findings identified by the student as well as evaluating the student's management plan for all problem clients. Additionally, the preceptor is asked to spend time with the student in case discussion, continuing education, and discussion of clinical problems.

The preceptor must always be present in the clinical area during the student's experience. At the beginning of each experience, the student and preceptor will discuss the clinical plan. The student must present each client's case to the preceptor for approval of the management protocol. **ALL STUDENT ENTRIES IN CLIENTS' HEALTH/MEDICAL RECORDS MUST BE CO-SIGNED BY THE CLINICAL PRECEPTOR.**

The student also has a responsibility to the preceptor to be prepared, ask questions and to identify her/his own strengths and weaknesses. The student is expected to ask for assistance with new procedures or learning opportunities and to seek confirmation with any findings of which he/she may be unsure. The student should show evidence of utilizing the clinical for advanced learning. The preceptor has a right to ask that the student be placed in another learning environment if problems should arise.
Each semester the preceptor will be provided with objectives and goals for the student to facilitate clinical learning. The preceptor will be asked to complete a student clinical evaluation at the completion of the clinical practicum, share this evaluation with the student, and return the completed evaluation to Dr. Janice Twiss or the designated faculty at the beginning of each semester. Faculty will be making on site clinical visits to evaluate the student's performance at various times throughout the semester. The faculty supervisor will make prior arrangements with the student and preceptor before an on site visit is made.
CLINICAL COURSES FOR THE WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVANCED PRACTICE PROGRAM

The nursing courses are offered during the fall and spring semesters. Each semester is 15 weeks. The student is expected to complete a certain number of clinical hours each semester. These hours may be negotiated between the preceptor and the student. They may be completed over the course of the semester or during a block of clinical time that can be arranged to meet both the preceptor and student's schedule. The following is a brief description of the four nursing courses for the maternal and women's advanced practice nurse program and the types of clinical experiences that would be appropriate for the student:

NRSG 833 Advanced Assessment in Women’s Health and
NRSG 834 Primary Care and Health Promotion in Women (Fall Semester, First Year, 8 hours of clinical/week)

This course focuses on advanced assessment skills, health promotion, and management of common health care problems, well-woman health care, prenatal care, and family planning. The student should have experiences doing the following:

1. Utilize advanced diagnostic assessment skills
2. Annual physical assessments
3. Well woman care
4. Family planning
   a. Pill and Depo management
   b. Placement and removal of IUD
   c. Diaphragm fitting
   d. Placement and removal of implant
   e. Natural Family planning
5. Antepartal and postpartal care
6. Common health care problems
7. Managing Sexually Transmitted Diseases
8. Health Promotion Teaching (all aspects)
9. STD cultures
10. Pap smears
11. Wet mounts and gram stains
12. Quick Strep tests
13. Pregnancy tests
14. Counseling and Teaching (All aspects of OB/GYN teaching)
15. Nursing procedures
16. Lactation Consultation
NRSG 835 Acute Care and Health Promotion in Women (Spring Semester, First Year, 6-9 hours of clinical/week)

This course focuses on the management/collaboration of the more complex gynecological health care problems and high risk pregnancy problems. The student should have opportunities to continue to master the above skills as well as have opportunities doing/observing/assisting with the following:

1. Perimenopausal and menopausal care
2. Manage gynecological problems
3. Manage/collaborate high risk pregnancy
4. Preconceptual counseling
5. Health risk appraisals
6. Inpatient evaluations and management
7. Endometrial, cervical, vaginal and labial biopsies
8. Suturing of minor wounds
9. Quick lab tests
10. Insertion and fitting pessaries
11. Presurgical physicals
12. Breast biopsy and aspiration
13. Colposcopy concepts
14. Ultrasounds
15. Postcoital Test & Semen Analysis
16. Insemination

NRSG 837 Chronic Care and Health Promotion in Women  (Fall Semester Second Year, 9 clinical hours/week)

This course focuses on chronic health care problems and women. The impact of chronic illness on pregnancy is also addressed. The student should have opportunities to continue to master the above skills and to become more independent in her clinical decision making. The student should be an asset to your clinic and facilitate the management of your caseload. Continuity of a small number of clients would be ideal. Opportunities should be provided to meet the above competencies as well as the following:

1. Managing stable chronic health care problems
2. Managing pregnancies with stable chronic health care problems
3. Diabetic teaching and nutrition
4. Mental health counseling
During this semester the student is mastering her role as a nurse practitioner. She should become more independent and be able to manage a consistent population of women over a period of time. Ideally, she could have her own scheduled clients to manage. She should require minimal supervision with the common OB/GYN clients, but always needing confirmation of her diagnostic plan of care and co-signing of her charts. The student should be an asset to your office during this semester. Opportunities should be provided to meet the student’s needs and to help her develop into her role.
Definition of Women's Health Advanced Practice Nurse:

The Women's Health Advanced Practice Nurse (WHAPN) is prepared to provide holistic nursing care for women. This program focuses on diagnostic reasoning and principles of management for pregnancy, reproductive and sexuality issues, including gynecologic and breast conditions. The WHAPN has advanced knowledge and skills in physical and psychosocial assessment, health promotion, health maintenance and disease prevention to meet primary health care needs of women. The WHAPN has skills and knowledge to recognize and manage common non-gynecological health care problems and changes in client's health status, such as cardiac or diabetes, requiring referral to other health care providers. In a collaborative relationship, the WHAPN manages the client in a stable state at women's health care settings.

The following beliefs are inherent:

- Women's health advanced practice nurses:
  - have an in-depth understanding of women's development throughout the age span.
  - are forefront providers in addressing women's health issues in a gender specific framework.
  - provide prenatal care, specialized reproductive health care, as well as primary health care to women across the age span.

- The primary role of the WHAPN is health promotion, increasing levels of wellness, in a healing, caring context to a diverse population of women.

- Women share common health experiences in their lives and therefore have specific health care needs.

The faculty believe that the women's health advanced nurse practice role is a futuristic response to the needs of women because:

- Women are demanding health care that is more responsive to their needs.

- Federal programs, as well as the Campaign for Women's health, a coalition of over 70 organization concerned with women's health issues and health care reform, are demanding improved health care services for women.

Therefore, the focus of this program is on:

- specific health care needs of women,
- the early identification of problems,
- referral and management within a collaborative relationship and in coordination with multiple disciples.

- It is the faculties' belief that gender specific content and concepts are essential in providing holistic health care to women.
**How this program will meet these beliefs:**

The specialty begins with a critique of theories regarding women's and children's health to formulate a knowledge foundation for research and practice. An understanding of environmental, social, economic, and political concepts is needed to view the woman within the context of the life cycle. The students study the physiology of women and the unique changes that occur with menarche, menstruation, menopause and during pregnancy. They develop an understanding of the woman across the life span from adolescence through maturity. The courses progress from understanding the women in a healthy state, defining health promotion and disease prevention in primary care to health maintenance and illness management of health care problems unique to women in a collaborative manner in primary, secondary and tertiary care settings.

**Certification:**

The Women's Health Advanced Practice Nurse is eligible to sit for certification exams with National Certification Corporation (NCC) as a woman's health nurse practitioner. NCC is a separate legal entity from AWHONN (Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses).

**Women's Health Clinical Faculty:**

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