



GUIDELINES

SUBJECT/TITLE: Specialized Clinical Competencies for Undergraduate Students (Calgary Campus and Medicine Hat College Site)		PAGE: 1 of 3
RELATED POLICY: Medication Preparation and Administration for Undergraduate Nursing Students	DATE ESTABLISHED: December 2011	
AUTHORIZATION: Practice Policy and Procedure Committee Undergraduate Program Committee Faculty of Nursing, Medicine Hat College	DATE LAST REVISED: November 6, 2020 (incorporated UC revisions) July 2, 2020 (UC) May, 2020 (MHC)	

PURPOSE

- To maintain standards for safety and quality patient/client care.
- To comply with the Government Organization Act (2000) and associated legislation regarding competency to practice.
- To address the learning needs of the 4th year nursing students enrolled in NURS 589 and NURS 599 who are transitioning to independent practice and to identify the requirements for learning specialized clinical competencies in nursing practice.
- To provide a basis for discussion between Student, Preceptor(s), Unit Management, and Faculty Advisor.

GUIDELINE

Specialized Clinical Competency

Specialized Clinical Competencies (SCCs) are “those nursing competencies that require application of expert level knowledge, skills, judgement, critical thinking, and personal attributes that have been acquired through additional education and practice. The theory underlying some of these competencies may have been taught in basic nursing education programs, but the clinical competence required to perform these skills, however, has not been sufficiently developed without additional education and supervised practice” (Calgary Health Region, n.d.). SCCs include, but are not limited to, restricted activities as defined by the Government Organization Act, RSA 2000, Chapter G-10, Schedule 7.1. Specialized Clinical Competencies require preparation beyond entry-level practice.

GUIDELINE STATEMENT

This policy is to provide guidelines of the Scope of Practice including roles and responsibilities for nursing students involved in nursing care that are within their nursing professional standard including the competence and professionalism of the continuing competence program and disciplinary processes of the nursing students within the undergraduate nursing program.

GUIDELINE

The nursing student must follow the CARNA Supervision Standards and be aware of the entry-level competencies for the practice of registered nurses (2019).

These standards apply at all times to all nursing students within the undergraduate nursing program regardless of role or practice setting. The standards are grounded in the foundational Scope of Practice Standards for Supervising Students in Alberta and the Canadian Nurses Association Code of Ethics (2017).

Nursing 289,389,489,499 (Term 3-6)

Nursing students in these terms need to complete the required educational components prior to performing nursing skills in clinical practice.

Nursing 589 (TERM 7)

Nursing 589 (Term 7) students may participate in learning specialized clinical competencies only when all of the conditions below are met:

- Nursing 589 students may take on SCCs when it is deemed to be an integral aspect of nursing practice on the designated practice unit. The identification of SCC for NURS 589 students occurs in conjunction between the Nursing Instructor, the Nursing Practice Course Coordinator and Unit Managers/Educators.
- Strict adherence to AHS policy or facility organizational policy and procedures for SCCs is the responsibility of the student engaged in performing this competency.
- In NURS 589 the U of C/MHC Nursing Instructor must be certified in the SCC and is willing to **directly supervise** the student at all times when performing the SCC. This means that the U of C/MHC Nursing Instructor is **at the elbow** of the student any time the student performs the SCC. The Nursing Instructor **co-signs** the documentation of the SCC.
- The student has completed all mandatory **learning modules** as agreed upon by U of C/MHC Faculty of Nursing, Alberta Health Services (AHS) or any other agencies.

Nursing 599 (TERM 8)

Final Preceptorship Students in Nursing 599 (Term 8) may participate in learning specialized clinical competencies only when all of the conditions below are met:

- Strict adherence to AHS policy or facility organizational policy and procedures for specialized clinical competencies is the responsibility of the student engaged in performing this competency.
- The Unit Manager or designate has agreed to allow the student to perform the specialized clinical competency while completing a final practicum on the unit (see exception below). It is up to the discretion of the Preceptor and/or Unit Manager to determine student readiness to conduct the SCC and/or if the clinical situation is appropriate for the student to conduct the SCC.
- The Preceptor is certified in the specialized clinical competency and is willing to **directly supervise** the student at all times when performing the specialized clinical competency. This means that the Preceptor will supervise **“at the elbow”** of the student any time the student performs the specialized clinical competency. The student will not engage in performing an SCC without the direct supervision of the preceptor at all times. The Preceptor **co-signs** the specialized clinical competency documentation within the patient’s record.
- The student has completed all **learning modules related to the SCC** as mandated by Alberta Health Services (AHS) or placement site, and, if applicable, any other facility/organization requirements for student preparation.

*Students should review relevant agencies policies when applicable with their nursing instructors and preceptors.

REFERENCES

Alberta Health Services, Document #: CP-c-09 (2016): *Specialized Clinical Competencies: Qualification and Performance*.

College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (2019). Entry-Level Competencies for the Practice of Registered Nurses. Edmonton, AB. Author. https://www.nurses.ab.ca/docs/default-source/document-library/standards/entry-to-practice-competencies-for-the-registered-nurses-profession.pdf?sfvrsn=15c1005a_16

College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (2019). Supervision Standards.

Edmonton, AB: Author. https://nurses.ab.ca/docs/default-source/document-library/standards/supervision-standards.pdf?sfvrsn=ff574fb4_18

Government Organization Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2019, Chapter G-10, Schedule 7.1, Health Services Restricted Activities.