Observations of Off Unit Clinical Experiences for Students

This reference has been assembled to assist school of nursing instructors in pursuing appropriate patient experiences and observations for their nursing students.

Off unit experiences should be appropriate to the course objectives of the current clinical rotation.

It is preferred that 1-2 students be off the unit at any given time.

It is imperative that the clinical instructor be in house when this experience is scheduled.

Please contact the individual listed for the observation experience requested.
Community Outreach Clinic

Patient Populations served:
- Uninsured/Underinsured
- Experience learning in community resources and financial assistance program for people living in poverty.

Average length of stay:
Single office visit

Observation:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking

Skills Performed:
- RN/Office duties
- Patient interview/exam and whatever else is needed
- Medication dispensing
- Patient Education
- Any skills they may have completed in school such as VS, nebulizer treatments, dressing changes, etc.

Best Days/Hours:
- Tuesday and Thursday
- 3:00 PM until 10:00 PM

Specific Requirements/Skills:
- Prefer last semester students for Precept.
- Other students can come for Observation only.

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Linda Smith
- Linda.smith@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Follow volunteer nurse/NP/MD
- Place patients in rooms
- Complete interviews/exam
- Patient Education as needed
- Dispense medications as needed
## Emergency Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Populations served:</th>
<th>Newborn to geriatric</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average length of stay:</td>
<td>2 ½ hours</td>
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</table>
| **Observation/Off Unit Clinical Experience Available:** | • Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.  
• Observation of the nursing process.  
• Observation of the application of critical thinking  
• Care of many different patients with multiple, different health issues/concerns |
| **Clinical Experience Skills Performed:** | • Assessments  
• IV Starts  
• Medication Administration  
• Discharge teaching  
• Foley catheters  
• NG  
• Dressings |
| **Best Days/Hours:** | Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the PMs are when the department has the largest patient load |
| **Specific Requirements/Skills:** | • Not the students 1st clinical rotation  
• Self-motivated to learn during down-time  
• Instructor must be in the building and available |
| **Observation Only:** |  
| **Contact:** | Paul Dimiceli  
pdimici@froedterthealth.org |
| **This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:** | • Start IV’s when appropriate  
• Come prepared to perform patient assessment (peds through adults)  
• Administer medications, ie PO, IM  
• Obtain vital signs  
• Place patients on cardiac monitors  
• Assist with performing 12 Lead EKGs  
• Provide discharge teaching instructions/follow-up care  
• Insert Foley catheters  
• Assist with NG insertions  
• Perform wound preps  
• Apply dressings  
• Observe/assist with triage process |
• Prepare patients for MD evals. and diagnostic procedures
• Assist/perform CPR/bag ventilations
• Observe/participate in family centered care
• Document interventions on nurses note
• Self-motivated to seek out learning opportunities.
GI Lab

Patient Populations served:
- All ages and types
- In-Patients age 16-100 years
- Out-Patients age 16-100 years
- All types and population

Average length of stay:
3 hours depending on procedure

Observations available:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Conscious Sedation
- Colonoscopy
- EGD, ERCP, Capsule Endoscopy
- BRAVO, Hydrogen Breath

Best Days/Hours:
Variable

Clinical Experience Skills: Needed:
- Attaching monitor equipment to patient
- Observing procedures

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Nancy McKinnon
- nancy.mckinnon@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.
**Home Today Surgery**

**Patient Populations served:** Children to Elderly

**Average length of stay:** 3-4 hours

**Observations available:**
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Admission and discharge of patients
- Surgical procedures – cataracts, lithotripsy

**Clinical Experience Skills Performed:**
- Assessment of patients
- Teaching – Pre-op & post-op
- Starting IVs
- Organizational skills and critical thinking

**Best Days/Hours:**
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- Anytime from 5:00 AM to 1:30 PM

**Specific Requirements/Skills:**
- 3rd or 4th semester A.D.N. students
- 3rd or 4th year BSN students
- Only 1 student at a time

**Observation Only:**
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Merle Hackwell
- mhackwel@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.
ICU

Patient Populations served: All types of higher acuity patients

Average length of stay: Varies—depends on diagnosis

Observations available:
• Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
• Observation of the nursing process.
• Observation of the application of critical thinking
• Daily routines, tests/procedures

Precept Experience Skills Performed:
• Vitals
• Medication administration
• Patient education
• Normal cares
• Documentation
• Collaboration with other team members

Best Days/Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Specific Requirements/Skills:
• Knowledge of CMH IV pumps (for precepted students only)
• Vital signs
• Intake and Output
• Charting
• Roles of other healthcare team members

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
• Laurie Johnson
  ljohnson @froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
• Be attentive and observant.
• Ask questions
• Review Medical Record
• The student will not be giving meds/treatments, etc. due to nature of experience unless they are in a 1:1 precept.
• Dress professionally
• Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.
Inpatient Rehabilitation

Patient Populations served:
- Older adults
- Orthopedic rehab experience
- CVA recovery - rehab
- Spinal stenosis – rehab
- Multiple trauma – rehab post-injury

Average length of stay: 16 days

Observations available:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Various therapies, interdisciplinary team interaction

Clinical Experience Skills
Needed/Performed:
- Medication administration
- Skin treatment
- Stump wrapping
- Wound care
- Tube feeding
- Supervised feeding of compromised swallowing
- Bowel programs
- Bladder scanning
- IV experience
- Transfer training

Best Days/Hours:
Observation: Tuesday
Thursday
Experience: Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Dee Kaker
dkaker@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.
Mental Health Center

Patient Populations served:
- Varieties
- Psychiatric
- Substance abuse

Average length of stay: 5 days

Observations available:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- All aspects of therapeutic community.
- Process group
- Activity group
- Occupational therapy
- Electroconvulsive therapy

Clinical Experience/ Skills Performed:
Patient teaching 1:1
Possible assessment/intervention of patients in alcohol withdrawal

Best Days/Hours: Monday – Friday

Prerequisites:
Senior BSN student
Completed all Med/Surg Clinical
Background in abdominal psych, interpersonal communication

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Judy Lark
- jlark@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.
Occupational Health

Patient Populations served:  
- Employees and Corporate clients

Average length of stay:  
- 5 minutes to 1 hour

Observations available:  
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Fitness center orientation
- Physicals, health evaluation, immunization administration, weight lifting class, safety survey
- Ergonomic evaluations, hearing tests, wellness committee activities
- Health Fair, Point of Care cholesterol testing

Clinical Experience Skills Performed:  
- Ergonomic evaluations
- Injections/Immunizations
- Physical assessment
- Injury treatment
- Health promotion
- Teaching proper lifting/body mechanics
- TB skin testing
- Use of critical thinking in an independent practice environment
- On site Health Fairs

Best Days/Hours:  
- Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 7:00 – 5:00
- Friday 7:30 – 4:30

Specific Requirements/Skills Needed:  
- Physical assessments
- Injections
- TB skin test competency

Prerequisites:  
- Basic theory & clinical experience

Observation Only:  
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:  
- Karen Keyes
- karen.keyes@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:  
- An understanding of confidentiality.
- Most observations are available, however, not all on any given day.
Cancer Care Center (Outpatient)

Patient Populations served: All ages 18 and over: no pediatric population

Average length of stay: 15 minutes to 2 hours

Observations available:  
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.  
- Observation of the nursing process.  
- Observation of the application of critical thinking  
  RN Patient Contact

Clinical Experience Skills Performed:  
- Patient exams  
- Patient Education  
- Treatments specific to medical oncology and radiation oncology.  
- Histories  
- Vitals  
- Oncology experience videos

Best Days/Hours:  
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
- 8:00 to 4:30

Perquisites:  
- Interest in oncology

Skills needed:  
- Maturity – advanced in nursing education

Observation Only:  
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:  
- Carol Barczak  
  cbarczak@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:  
- Dress professionally  
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.
Surgery Services

Patient Populations served: All

Average length of stay: 20 minutes to several hours

Observations available:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- OR: Total joints
- Vascular procedures
- Urology procedures
- General Surgery
- Ophthalmology
- Some Plastic/reconstructive surgery

Clinical Experience Skills Performed: Observation only in OR

Best Days/Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Days

Specific Requirements/Skills:
- Basic infection control
- Personal Protective Equipment use
- Basic understanding of asepsis helpful
- Orientation to department

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Deborah Black
deblack@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Dress professionally
- Come prepared with questions and objectives for the experience.
Nursing Administration Supervisor

Patient Populations served:
- Medical/Surgical
- Young Adult to Elderly

Average length of stay:
N/A

Observations available:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Patient Placement
- Charge/Supervisor Role Observation

Clinical Experience Skills Performed:
N/A

Best Days/Hours:
Varies

Specific Requirements/Skills:
Students should be close to graduation

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Mary Benson
- mbenson@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Appropriately dressed
- Must come with a list of objectives to meet.
**Patient Populations served:**
- All populations
- Work on all units – ICU, MCU, OB, 3/4/5 and ED

**Average length of stay:**
Varies

**Observations available:**
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- From day to day assignments change. The student would get exposed to many different units.
- The nurse would also learn a lot about policy/procedure. (Since a resource nurse goes to specialized units, they need to know exactly what they can or cannot do based on hospital policy.

**Clinical Experience Skills Performed (if applicable):**
- IV
- NG
- Foley
- Lab draws from lines
- Clinical assessments
- Doppler use
- Bladder scans
- Medication administration
- Neuro assessments

**Best Days/Hours:**
0700-1930, 3 days a week

**Observation Only:**
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Mary Benson
- mbenson@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Appropriately dressed
- Must come with a list of objectives to meet.
Patient Populations served: Young adult to Elderly

Average length of stay: Varies

Observations available:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Bedside Nursing
- Assisting in Procedures
- Admissions
- Flexing hospital to do a variety of tasks

Clinical Experience Skills Performed: Observation only

Best Days/Hours: Weekend only

Specific Requirements/Skills: N/A

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Mary Benson
- mbenson@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Appropriately dressed
- Must come with a list of objectives to meet.
**Wound/Ostomy RN**

**Patient Populations served:** Skin, wound, ostomy patients, in-patients and out-patients

**Average length of stay:** Varies

**Observations available:**
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- 2 hour blocks of time are available to individual students to accompany CWOCN on patient consultants and follow-up assessment visits.

**Clinical Experience Skills Performed:**
- The nursing process and documentation of.
- Assessment, diagnosis, intervention/treatment plan and evaluation

**Best Days/Hours:**
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
- 1000-1200 or 1300-1500

**Specific Requirements/Skills:**
- Braden Scale Use
- Wound assessment/Documentation
- Knowledge of Nursing Process as it relates to the area of WOC Nursing

**Observation Only:**
**Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:**
- Jeanne Stadler
- jstadler@froedterthealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Participate in the assessment and physical care of the patient.
- Appropriately dressed
- Must come with a list of objectives to meet.
Diabetic Educator

Patient Populations served: Any patient with high blood pressure

Average length of stay: Varies

Observations available:
- Observation of the role of the professional registered nurse.
- Observation of the nursing process.
- Observation of the application of critical thinking
- Clinical Consulting
- Staff Education
- Meetings
- Patient Education (Minimal)
- Support Group attendance

Clinical Experience Skills Performed: N/A

Best Days/Hours: Monday-Friday (Days)

Specific Requirements/Skills: N/A

Observation Only:
Contact for Observation/Off-Unit Experiences only:
- Tamara Teetzen
tteezen@froedterhealth.org

This unit will expect the student to perform the following during their observation/off-unit experience:
- Appropriately dressed
- Must come with a list of objectives to meet.