

Spokane Community College

Paramedic Program

Clinical Experience: Intensive Care Unit/Coronary Intensive Care Unit

The following objectives are proposed for the ICU/CICU, because of patient availability, it is possible that all skills listed below may not be performed by the student. As many skills as possible should be observed and practiced by the student under the supervision of the preceptor.

The paramedic student has completed classroom and lab environment instruction in the management of all facets of the cardiac patient. The purpose of their time in the ICU/ CICU is to gain hands on experience in dealing with patients that are hospitalized for cardiac related illnesses. Your knowledge and guidance will help to further the education process. The students are familiar with the practices listed:

1. American Heart Association - Advanced Cardiac Life Support guidelines.
2. Medications commonly used in the care and treatment of various cardiac patients, as well as, medication routes.
3. Knowledge of cardiac rhythm interpretation and 12 Lead analyses.
4. Establishing IV's using over the needle catheters and obtaining blood samples.
5. Basic airway adjuncts (oropharyngeal, nasopharyngeal airways)
6. Bag-valve ventilation (both mask and endotracheal)
7. Basic intubation procedures (nasal and oral)
8. Advanced airway procedures (needle and surgical cricothyrotomy)
9. Suctioning patient airways (intubated and non-intubated)

Objectives:

During the experience in the ICU/CICU, the student shall have the opportunity to observe and work with actual patients, under the direct supervision of the preceptor. The students will demonstrate proficiency, to the satisfaction of the preceptor, in each of the following areas:

1. Perform patient assessment including developing relevant medical history and doing a physical exam. The assessment may include taking and recording vital signs and auscultation of the chest and abdominal sounds
2. Perform suctioning on an intubated and non-intubated patient as available.
3. Operate oxygen equipment and administer oxygen with the common pre-hospital equipment; including the Bag-valve-mask (BVM), pressure demand valve, and automatic ventilator.
4. Apply monitoring electrodes, observe and interpret ECG rhythms (lead II)
5. Prepare and administer intramuscular, subcutaneous and intravenous medications as directed by the preceptor.
6. Observe the effects of pharmacological agents administered to patients.

Preceptor Activities:

In order to assist the student in meeting the objectives, the preceptor shall:

1. Have the student report to the appropriate preceptor and change into the proper attire (i.e., scrubs, mask, shoe covers, Dark slacks, white polo shirt, etc.)

2. Review the rules and operating procedures with the student, making certain to define the student's role. Any special regulations concerning the student's activities should be defined.
3. Review the history, diagnosis, complications, and treatment of each patient the student works with.
4. For each activity, the preceptor should demonstrate the skill initially, and then coach/supervise the student while he/she performs the skill.
5. The preceptor should critically review the student's techniques and suggest corrections where appropriate.
6. Answer any of the student's questions concerning activities in the unit or specific patients and their conditions.
7. **Mark the student's activities checklist after each clinical session.** The checklist should be marked indicating if the activity was observed (O) or number of attempts to perform the activity by the student, and if the activity was successful or not. Please use the space provided for any necessary comments.

Student Activities:

In order to complete the objective, the student will:

1. Report to the specialty unit on his/her scheduled date and time.
2. Review the rules and operating procedures in the unit with the preceptor, making certain that his/her role in the unit is clearly defined.
3. Review the objectives with the preceptor. Discuss which activities will be included in the experience.
4. Observe and participate in the unit activities as directed by the preceptor. In the event you observe a technique or procedure performed differently than its presentation during the classroom/lab activities, you may question the preceptor about the differences observed; however, remember that the techniques presented during the classroom/lab may not be the only correct way.
5. Perform each activity on the checklist (where appropriate) under the direct supervision of the preceptor. If you are unsure of the activity to be performed, ask the preceptor to demonstrate the skill first.
6. Review with the preceptor the history, diagnosis, complications, and treatment for the patient.
7. Assist the preceptor in completing your documentation for each activity.
8. Develop a patient log on each patient cared for during the clinical experience. The log should include the following minimal information:
 - a. Patients ID number rather than a name.
 - b. Major problem i.e., trauma, MI, CVA etc.
 - c. Complications
 - d. Skills and activities observed (ALS Only)
 - e. Skills performed (ALS Only)
 - f. Dysrhythmias observed (With rhythm strips and interpretation)
9. Medications administered (Indications, contra-indications, effects, side effects, dosage, route)

Note: Students are scheduled to participate in the ICU and CICU for 24 hours (Divided into shifts).