

DEL MAR COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF REGISTERED NURSE EDUCATION

CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF NURSING PRACTICE

The following objectives are critical elements in the student's clinical evaluation. If the clinical instructor observes behavior that indicates the student is not meeting either of the two objectives, stated below, the student will receive an unsatisfactory evaluation for the course (regardless of the behavior assessed elsewhere on the evaluation tool and/or the academic grade).

- A. Practices safe nursing care, which prevents real or potential harm to patients and their families. The following examples serve as guides to these unsafe behaviors but are **NOT TO BE CONSIDERED ALL INCLUSIVE.**
1. **Physical Safety**  
Safe behaviors: appropriate use of side rails, wheelchairs, other mechanical equipment; proper protection of the patient which avoids falls, lacerations, burns, etc.; performs only authorized nursing actions; seeks help when needed.
  2. **Biological Safety**  
Safe behaviors: recognizes violations in surgical and medical aseptic technique, utilizes "5 rights" in medication administration, comes to clinical without impairment, performs nursing actions with appropriate supervision, seeks help when needed; utilizes universal precautions.
  3. **Emotional Safety**  
Safe behaviors: promotes patient sense of safety; provides patient with appropriate and/or correct information; performs nursing actions with appropriate supervision, seeks help when needed; demonstrates stable emotional behaviors.
- B. Practices nursing according to legal, ethical, and professional standards.
1. Maintains confidentiality. Refer to the Handbook for Nursing Students Department of Registered Nurse Education: Conduct-Professional Boundaries, item #4.
  2. Demonstrates appropriate knowledge base required to care for assigned patient.
  3. Performs in a professional manner when interacting with patients, families, faculty and health care professionals (e.g., Altruism, honesty, sensitivity and tolerance).
  4. Maintains professional accountability at all times (e.g., pattern of promptness and adherence to dress code, seeks appropriate guidance and help from instructors and/or staff, keeps staff informed of patient's condition and changes in patient's condition, notifies instructor and staff when leaving the clinical unit).

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_