



POLICY NAME: Treatment and Medication
Administration Nursing Students and Instructors

POLICY ID: NUR:II:3109

DEPARTMENT: Nursing Educ Professional Dev

POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/01/1998

POLICY LAST UPDATED DATE:
05/13/2026

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to clarify and delineate the acceptable behaviors of Undergraduate nursing students while they are at any Children's National site participating in clinical rotations. It also defines the responsibility and accountability of the Registered nurse, both the clinical faculty from our Affiliate schools of nursing and Children's National clinical nurses who serve as preceptors and role models for students.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

A. Students of professional and practical nursing may perform SELECT treatments according to Children's National policy, procedures, and clinical standards.

B. Under the direct supervision of a Registered Nurse, students of professional nursing may administer medications by any route, except IV push and sedation/analgesia including moderate sedation.

C. Students of practical nursing may NOT administer medications by any route.

III. PROCEDURE

Nursing students and their clinical instructors may administer treatments and medications in accordance with Children's National's policy, procedures, and clinical standards and scope of practice.

A. Students of Professional Nursing

1. Delegation and/or Assignment of Treatments and Medication Administration Responsibilities:

- a. The Registered Nurse (RN), either the clinical faculty and/or Children's National staff is responsible for analyzing and evaluating the outcomes of care of an assigned or delegated task.
- b. The Registered Nurse, either the clinical faculty and/or Children's National staff supervises and determines appropriate actions of any student involved in patient care.

2. Administration of Treatments:

- a. All treatments performed by students of professional and practical nursing must be supervised by an instructor who has completed Children's National Affiliate Faculty Orientation Program, or a Children's RN who has successfully completed a unit-based orientation program.

- b. Students of professional or practical nursing may NOT, under any circumstance, perform the Following treatments, which include but are not limited to:
 - Flush a central venous access device
 - Irrigate nephrostomy tubes
 - Care for arterial lines
 - Insert an oral or nasal airway
 - Administer blood or blood products
 - Take a verbal or telephone order from a physician
 - Start a peripheral intravenous line
 - Point of Care Testing (e.g. Precision G, urine dip)
 - Serve as a witness for high-risk medication administration or dose calculation.
- c. Students of professional or practical nursing must be directly supervised EVERY TIME one of the following treatments are performed, which include but not limited to:
 - Flush a peripheral intravenous line
 - Change intravenous pump tubing
 - Perform endo-tracheal suctioning
 - Perform naso-tracheal suctioning
 - Tracheostomy care inclusive of suctioning of the tracheostomy, stoma care, and tie changes
 - Assist an RN with a routine tracheostomy tube change
 - Passing and/or irrigating a nasogastric tube
 - Central line dressing changes
 - Administration of enteral tube feedings
 - Discontinue an intravenous line
 - Administer TPN or lipids
 - Perform burn/wound care
 - Transport a sedated patient independently without an RN trained in moderate (conscious) sedation
- 3. Medication Administration:
 - 1. Professional and practical nursing students must comply with Children's National's Medication policies and procedures.
 - 2. Professional nursing students may administer medications under the supervision of a clinical faculty member who has completed the Children's National Affiliate Faculty Orientation Program or a Children's National Registered Nurse who has successfully completed a unit-based orientation program.
 - 3. Students of professional nursing must always be under DIRECT supervision when administering the following medications:
 - All medications administered by intravenous drip
 - Digitalis preparations
 - Medications requiring specialized administration techniques (e.g. Interferon)
 - Parenteral Narcotics**

- Insulin**
 - ACTH
 - Research and investigational drugs
 - Anticoagulants
 - **These medications must be cosigned by two registered nurses.
4. Students of practical nursing are not permitted to administer meds at Children's National.
 5. Professional or Practical nursing students MAY NOT under any circumstance administer medications via IV push or sedation/analgesia for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes, including moderate (conscious) sedation.

B. Clinical Faculty of Nursing Students

1. All clinical faculty must complete the Children's National Affiliate Faculty Orientation Program prior to the start of clinical supervision of students. Refer to Nursing Policy: NUR: II:3108.
2. All clinical faculty are responsible for orienting students to Children's National organization and policies and procedures before or on the initial day of the student's clinical rotation.
3. The clinical faculty must supervise all patient care (inclusive of treatment administration, medication preparation and administration, and documentation) provided by the student.
4. The clinical faculty must document the care, treatment, administration, and medication administration performed by the student.
5. All clinical faculty are required to follow the Children's National scope and standards for nursing students, in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the scope and standards document provided during orientation and throughout their tenure.

IV. ACCOUNTABLE EXECUTIVE(S) AND REVIEWER(S)

A. Accountable Executive(s): Brooks, Cicely

B. Committee(s) Responsible for Review: Nursing Education Congress

V. APPROVAL

Approved by:

Brooks, Cicely

Date

VI. REFERENCES

Children's National's Clinical Scope of Practice Nursing Students & Trainees -Updated
2023

Orientation of Faculty of Affiliating Schools of Nursing: Nursing Policy: NUR: II:3108.