

## **Practical/Vocational Nursing Program Outcome: Spirit of Inquiry**

Spirit of inquiry is a persistent sense of curiosity that informs both learning and practice. A nurse infused by a spirit of inquiry will raise questions, challenge traditional and existing practices, and seek creative approaches to problem-solving. A spirit of inquiry suggests, to some degree, a childlike sense of wonder. A spirit of inquiry in nursing engenders innovative thinking and extends possibilities for discovering novel solutions in both predictable and unpredictable situations.

### **Outcome**

By collaborating with health care team members, utilize evidence, tradition, and patient preferences in predictable patient care situations to promote optimal health status.

### **End-of-Program, Role-Specific Competencies**

The practical nursing program prepares the graduate to:

1. Suggest novel approaches to improve care to diverse patients and families (quality).
2. Question existing and traditional practices to improve safe, quality, cost effective care as a member of the health care team (safety).
3. Collaboratively seek creative approaches to care delivery (team/collaboration).
4. Use best current evidence coupled with clinical expertise and patient preferences and values to make practice decisions (relationship-centered care)
5. Collaborate with team members with suggestions to improve health care outcomes for patient safety, recovery, and transitions (systems-based care).
6. Value evidence-based approaches to yield best practices for nursing (personal and professional development).

### **Course Learner Outcomes that Support Achievement of Role-Specific Competencies**

#### **Quality Competency**

Suggest novel approaches to improve care to diverse patients and families.

Suggested Course Learner Outcomes:

1. Participates in committees/unit based activities to improve quality safety and cost effective care
2. Uses valid resources and informatics to guide clinical decision making
3. Expresses the importance of patient/family satisfaction as a key determinant of quality
4. Demonstrates the role of the LPN as an innovative thinker to improve quality standards

#### **Safety Competency**

Question existing and traditional practices to improve safe, quality, cost-effective care as a member of the health care team (safety).

Suggested Course Learner Outcomes:

1. Uses new knowledge to minimize risk
2. Considers alternative options, when reexamining patient response to care
3. Utilizes knowledge of best practices and national safety standards to improve care

### **Team/Collaboration Competency**

Collaboratively seek creative approaches to care delivery.

Suggested Course Objectives:

1. Seeks out health care team members for expert clinical knowledge about patient care needs
2. When in doubt, clarifies the LPN/LVN role and scope of practice
3. Respects the unique talents, knowledge and experience of all interprofessional team members

### **Relationship-Centered Care Competency**

Utilize best current evidence coupled with clinical expertise and patient preferences and values to make practice decisions.

Suggested Course Learner Outcomes:

1. Promotes patient engagement in care decisions seeking new solutions to improve their care
2. Asks about patient preferences and values and utilize evidence to determine new approaches to care

### **System-Based Care Competency**

Collaborate with team members with suggestions to improve health care outcomes for patient safety, recovery and transitions.

Suggested Course Learner Outcomes:

1. Shows humility, trust, and empathy in considering high quality, low cost solutions
2. Collaborates with the interprofessional team to identify system barriers that impede implementation of new approaches for patient safety.

### **Personal/Professional Development Competency**

Value evidence-based approaches to yield best practices for nursing in reflective practices to promote one's journey toward self-fulfillment.

Suggested Course Learner Outcomes:

1. Participates in continuing education opportunities that prompt new ways of thinking regarding care delivery
2. Investigates RN academic progression opportunities
3. Develops a persistent sense of curiosity to think creatively

### **Suggested Learning Activities to Meet Spirit of Inquiry Program Outcome**

Provide opportunities for the student to:

1. Recognize challenges in practicing to the full scope of licensed practical nursing practice
2. Utilize communication skills to question and clarify the LPNs' role and scope of practice in challenging patient situations
3. Identify examples of dynamic patient care situations that have been approved by questioning traditional standards
4. Make care decisions based on current best evidence and patient preferences/values
5. Recognize and identify ongoing evidence based initiatives
6. Participate in an evidence-based practice initiative as appropriate to the student practical nurse role
7. Offer opportunities to be valued for identification of novel solutions to care delivery.

### **Suggested Evaluation Strategies to Assess Graduate Achievement of Practical/Vocational Nursing Program Outcome**

By collaborating with health care team members, question the basis for nursing actions, considering research, evidence, tradition and patient preferences to promote optimal health status of diverse patients and their families.

Does the graduate

1. Consult team members for suggestions to improve health care outcomes for patient safety, recovery, and transitions (i.e., RN, social work, case management)?
2. Use evidence-based resources and appropriate team members when planning the patient's transitions of care with interprofessional team?.
3. Propose practice improvements based on evidence and clinical experience?
4. Pose "why" questions about procedures/policies that need to be revised and updated based on current evidence?
5. Know where to find evidence-based supported policies, procedures, or patient management guidelines to address clinical problems?
6. Ask patients/families about their preferences, beliefs, and requests, and accommodating as appropriate?
7. Inform other staff of patients' specific needs, preferences, and beliefs to individualize the plan of care?

September 2014