

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING  
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Preceptor Policy

- I. Clinical preceptors may be used for supervision of students in community health, leadership/management, independent study, elective courses, home health, and selected hospitals and long-term care facility experiences consistent with Board policy. [485: 10-5-5, 2 (j)]. This policy is applicable to students enrolled in nursing education programs leading to licensure as a Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse.
- A. A preceptor is a licensed nurse who is employed by the facility in which the clinical experience takes place, and who agrees to provide supervision to a student for a specified period of time during the preceptor's scheduled work hours in order to assist the student to meet identified learning objectives.
  - B. A preceptorship experience is defined as a clinical experience in which a student is participating in the provision of care for one or more clients and a faculty member is not in attendance on-site.
  - C. Preceptorships may constitute only a small percentage of a student's total clinical experiences. The decision to provide a clinical experience through a preceptorship shall be made after evaluation of the student's individual learning needs and must be justified by the nature of the experience required.
  - D. When the preceptorship is provided in a setting in which the student is employed, the faculty must ensure that both the student and the preceptor understand the difference in the student's role during the preceptorship experience vs. their role while employed at the facility.
- II. The following established Board policies must be met for a clinical preceptorship:
- A. Preceptors may be used for supervision of students only after students have demonstrated knowledge and skills that are required for the clinical situation.
  - B. A clinical preceptor shall have the following minimum qualification:
    - 1. least one year of experience in nursing
    - 2. current unencumbered licensure as an R.N. or L.P.N.
    - 3. a licensed nurse with comparable or greater educational preparation, i.e., a B.S.N., for baccalaureate students, an A.D.N. for associate degree students and L.P.N. for practical nursing students.

- C. A written agreement will be established with the cooperating agency, the preceptor, and the nursing education program, and shall delineate the functions and responsibilities of the parties involved in the preceptorship.
- D. Medication administration may be supervised by the clinical preceptor after the student has satisfactorily completed initial instruction and clinical practice with faculty supervision.
- E. A faculty member shall be responsible for coordinating clinical preceptorships. The faculty member shall provide an orientation to the role of the clinical preceptor and shall be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the preceptor in the role.
- F. The designated faculty member shall be responsible for students' learning experiences and shall meet regularly with the preceptor and student to monitor and evaluate learning experiences. Although the preceptor may provide input regarding the student's performance, the faculty member retains responsibility for evaluation of the student's achievement of the clinical objectives.
- G. The designated faculty member shall be readily available by telephone when students are under the supervision of a clinical preceptor. The designated faculty member should be available to provide assistance or supervision of the student at the clinical site, should a problem arise that cannot be resolved by telephone.

III. On-site supervision of students by a faculty member is required at all times, except in the following cases:

- A. The clinical experience is strictly observational.
  - 1. The purpose of an observational experience is to allow the student to observe specialized or advanced areas of clinical care. In an observational experience, the student does not provide hands-on care.
  - 2. Students may be placed at clinical sites for observational experiences without the supervision of a preceptor, provided that such experiences are limited to a small percentage of the student's clinical time and learning objectives and guidelines for the experience are clearly identified.
  - 3. Examples of observational experiences include, but are not limited to, attendance at an AA meeting or birthing class, an experience at the office of a health care provider, or "shadowing" a nurse in a specialized role, such as a wound care nurse or nurse administrator.
- B. The experience is a community health experience meeting the following criteria:
  - 1. The students are enrolled in the upper level of a registered nursing education program.
  - 2. There are established clinical objectives and an appropriate orientation to the setting.

3. The care provided by the students is limited to basic screening and data collection, health teaching, and assisting with low-risk care. Medications and invasive or complex procedures and care may not be performed unless the faculty is on-site to provide appropriate supervision.
  4. The supervising faculty member verifies the students' competency in the care and/or other skills required for the setting.
  5. The supervising faculty member meets regularly with the students to evaluate their progress toward meeting the objectives.
  6. The supervising faculty member is readily available to provide direct assistance, supervision, and evaluation as needed during the rotation.
  7. The experience is limited to a small percentage of the student's total clinical experience.
- C. The experience is a precepted clinical experience meeting the criteria established in this policy.

**IV. Regulatory Authority: OAC 485:10-5-5.2(j)**