

Student Nurse Observer Guidelines

As a student nurse at an Ascension LEGACY Hospital Site, you may have the opportunity to observe a patient experience in an area other than the clinical unit you have been assigned to. You represent yourself and your school of nursing when you are completing the observation. Please be advised of the following expectations:

CONDUCT: It is important to be respectful, professional, and quiet when observing. You may assume responsibilities that are within your scope of practice as a student nurse **and have been agreed upon by the nurse in charge of the area you are observing.** This should be established upon arrival of your observation. As an observer, you are not permitted to perform procedures on patients.

CLOTHING: Your school uniform is required with school badge visible.

PERSONAL VALUABLES: We recommend that all valuables be left home. The hospital cannot be responsible for loss of articles.

COLDS: Do not attempt to go into a special observation when you have a cold or any infectious disease because the patient must be protected from unnecessary exposure to infection.

If you should begin to feel faint or nauseated during your special observation sit down immediately and call for help. This should not be an embarrassment to you; in fact it happens often.

If you have any concerns after your special observation, please address them as soon as possible with your faculty so timely follow up may occur.

Your responsibility as an observer is one of the many student nurse experiences that will help you understand how to care for your patient and observe how the health care team functions seamlessly as a unit. By following these suggestions, it is hoped that your special observation will be valuable and enjoyable.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Signature: _____ Date: _____

[Faculty: Please retain a copy of observation experiences including names, dates, and units along with this form signed by each student.]