

# **Spokane Community College**

## **Paramedic Program**

### **Clinical Experience: Emergency Department**

#### **Objectives:**

The following objectives are proposed for the Emergency Department, because of patient availability, it is possible that all skills listed below may not be performed by the student. As many skills as possible should be observed and practiced by the student under the supervision of the preceptor.

During the experience with the Emergency Department the student will have the opportunity to work with the actual patients, under direct supervision, and demonstrate proficiency to the satisfaction of the preceptor, for each of the following:

1. Perform patient assessment including developing relevant medical history and doing a physical exam. The assessment may include taking and recording vital signs and auscultation of the chest and abdominal sounds.
2. Assist, and review the treatment of trauma cases and medical emergencies. At a minimum the student should review cases involving:
  - a. Suspected myocardial infarction
  - b. Multiple or severe trauma
  - c. COPD
  - d. Overdose/poisoning
  - e. Suspected fractures
  - f. Massive hemorrhage, any source
3. Assist in triage of patients
4. Assist in trauma cases requiring hemorrhage control, MAST suit, splinting, and spinal cord injury management
5. Perform venipuncture procedures using an over the needle catheter or winged infusion needle. Draw venous blood samples
6. Apply monitoring electrodes, observe and interpret ECG rhythms (lead II)
7. Prepare and administer intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous, and intraosseous medications as directed by the preceptor.
8. Observe the effects of pharmacological agents given
9. Assist in cases of cardiac arrest as directed by the preceptor, including the performance of CPR, management of the airway, endotracheal intubation, IV/IO initiation, medication administration, and defibrillation/cardioversion.
10. Operates oxygen equipment and administer oxygen, using various equipment and masks.
11. Prepares and operates suction.
12. Observe the operation of communications equipment with emergency vehicles.
13. Observe and assist with central line placement, cricothyrotomy, transtracheal jet insufflation, external pacing, pulse oximetry, chest tube placement, and end tidal carbon dioxide monitoring.
14. Complete charting requirements for skills performed.

#### **Preceptor Activities:**

In order to assist the student in meeting the objectives, the preceptor shall:

1. Have the student report to the appropriate preceptor and change into the proper attire (i.e., white polo shirt, dark slacks, appropriate footwear, etc.)
2. Review the rules and operating procedures with the student, making certain to define the student's role. Any special regulations concerning the student's activities should be defined.
3. Review the history, diagnosis, complications, and treatment of each patient the student works with.
4. For each activity, the preceptor should demonstrate the skill initially, and then coach/supervise the student while he/she performs the skill.
5. The preceptor should critically review the student's techniques and suggest corrections where appropriate.
6. Answer any of the student's questions concerning activities in the unit or specific patients and their conditions.
7. **Mark the student's activities checklist after each clinical session.** The checklist should be marked indicating if the activity was observed (O) or number of attempts to perform the activity by the student, and if the activity was successful or not. Please use the space provided for any necessary comments. Please print your name and initial student documentation for each skill.

### **Student Activities:**

In order to complete the objective, the student will:

1. Report to the specialty unit on his/her scheduled date and time.
2. Review the rules and operating procedures in the unit with the preceptor, making certain that his/her role in the unit is clearly defined.
3. Review the objectives with the preceptor. Discuss which activities will be included in the experience.
4. Observe and participate in the unit activities as directed by the preceptor. In the event you observe a technique or procedure performed differently than its presentation during the classroom/lab activities, you may question the preceptor about the differences observed; however, remember that the techniques presented during the classroom/lab may not be the only correct way.
5. Perform each activity on the checklist (where appropriate) under the direct supervision of the preceptor. If you are unsure of the activity to be performed, ask the preceptor to demonstrate the skill first.
6. Review each activity performed with the preceptor, with the preceptor critiquing your performance.
7. Insure the preceptor marks and signs the checklist after each clinical session.
8. Develop a patient log on each patient cared for during the clinical experience. The log should include the following minimal information:
  - a. Patients ID number rather than a name.
  - b. Major problem i.e., trauma, MI, CVA etc.
  - c. Complications
  - d. Skills and activities observed (ALS Only)
  - e. Skills performed (ALS Only)
  - f. Dysrhythmias observed (With rhythm strips and interpretation)
  - g. Medications administered (Indications, contra-indications, effects, side effects, dosage, route)

**Note:** Students are scheduled to participate in this unit for a period of 120 hours.(8-12 hour shifts)