Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Student Policy

1. Purpose

To define the scope of practice of the advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) student in a clinical setting at Aurora Health Care (AHC), supervision of the APRN student within the patient care environment, and individual responsibilities of the student, APRN preceptor, and faculty. Although this policy refers to APRN preceptors, Aurora physicians and other clinicians may be involved in the education and training or provide clinical oversight for APRN students.

It is the responsibility of Aurora Health Care as the Sponsoring Institution, the APRN preceptor, and the School or College of Nursing to work together to provide the clinical environment where the APRN student can develop competence in the advanced practice role and population or specialty focus.

The advanced education of the registered nurse is an essential dimension of the transformation of the nurse to a licensed independent practitioner. APRN education is based upon the NONPF (The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties) competencies, didactic and clinical coursework, and supervised clinical experiences that prepare nurses with specialized knowledge and clinical competency to practice in primary care, acute care and long term health care settings.

As master's or doctorally prepared, licensed independent practitioners; advanced practice registered nurses practice autonomously and in collaboration with health care professionals and other individuals to assess, diagnose, treat and manage the patient's health problems/needs. They serve as health care researchers, interdisciplinary consultants and patient advocates.

2. Scope

This policy applies to Aurora Health Care, Inc. and any entity or facility owned or controlled by Aurora Health Care.

3. Definitions

3.1 National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) is the professional organization that identifies the educational curriculum for a nurse practitioner program including the domains and core competencies for NP practice and education. An accredited NP educational program includes didactic and clinical courses, and supervised clinical experiences.

3.1 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Student (APRN Student) is a licensed nurse in the state of Wisconsin, currently enrolled in an accredited college or university graduate-level or post-graduate level education program preparing the advanced practice nurse for one of the recognized APRN roles.

3.2 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Preceptor (APRN Preceptor) is a registered nurse who is employed by AHC, and has completed specialized advanced nursing education for one of the recognized APRN roles, and holds a minimum master's degree in nursing or a related health field granted by a college or university accredited by a
regional accrediting agency approved by the board of education in the state in which the college or university is located. The APRN preceptor will plan for an APRN student educational experience that is within the APRN preceptor scope of practice and privileges granted by AHC. Note: An Aurora physician can also act as an APRN preceptor.

3.3 APRN scope of practice: The scope of a licensed APRN’s practice is competence in nine core areas as defined by the practice of professional nursing in a role and population or specialty focus as designated by a national certifying body approved by the Wisconsin Board of Nursing. The core competencies are:

1. Scientific Foundation
2. Leadership
3. Quality
4. Practice Inquiry
5. Technology and Information Literacy
6. Policy
7. Health Delivery
8. Ethics
9. Independent Practice

3.4 Direct Supervision of a student is defined as an APRN preceptor who is physically present with the APRN student and patient.

3.5 Indirect Supervision of a student is defined as an APRN preceptor who is physically within the clinical site and is immediately available to provide direct supervision.

4. Policy

4.1 Clinical preceptoring and direct/indirect supervision of an APRN student is provided by a qualified APRN or physician credentialed and privileged by Aurora Health Care.

4.2 A qualified APRN student will provide patient care under the direct/indirect supervision of a qualified APRN preceptor or physician within the scope of their professional license and in accordance with the policies/procedures established by Aurora Health Care including adherence to dose and age appropriate medication guidelines.

4.3 Aurora Health Care reserves the right to terminate a student’s clinical placement if they have been involuntarily terminated from employment by AHC.

4.4 An affiliation agreement for student placement that is approved by AHC legal services must exist between Aurora Health Care and the sponsoring College/University before a student placement can be finalized.

5. Procedures

5.1 Students:
   a. Are required to complete and submit paperwork listed on the website www.aurora.org/students. Students must complete all required paperwork before providing any patient care.
   b. Are expected to know and abide by AHC policies/procedures that pertain to their clinical site and patient population, including documentation guidelines and confidentiality of protected health information in the electronic health record. Access to the electronic health record is granted in accordance to AHC policy #159, Nonemployees Working in Aurora Health Care, Attachment A.
c. Students must be aware of the Aurora Health Care credentialing and privileging documents for their respective practice specialty.

d. Maintains current Wisconsin RN license.

e. Will seek consultation and guidance appropriately from the preceptor and/or assigned faculty.

5.2 APRN Preceptor Clinical Supervision by AHC employee:

a. Reviews the APRN student’s scope of practice, skill set, and APRN role competency information prior to the start of the clinical experience. Supervises all APRN student clinical hours by direct or indirect supervision. Direct supervision must be provided if the student has not attained clinical competency in a procedure or skill. Evidence of student competency in procedures and or skills is provided to the preceptor by the student/school/assigned faculty.

b. Communicates any APRN student concerns/issues directly with the assigned faculty member(s). Communication may be within 24 hours if the concern/issue does not require immediate action. Keeps a record of concerns/issues that are communicated.

c. Communicates any student/faculty/preceptor concerns/issues to the Aurora Nursing Academic Liaison.

d. Educates/orients the APRN student to the EHR, if needed.

e. Completes all required student forms/documentation including student and program evaluations within the timeframes established by the School or College of Nursing.

5.3 Faculty from requesting School or College of Nursing:

a. The level of student competency, readiness for clinical placement, and population focus/clinical setting is determined by the School or College of Nursing faculty prior to submitting a clinical placement request via the website.

b. Completes AHC requirements for instructors prior to the start of the clinical experience. See website, www.aurora.org/students.

c. Are expected to know and abide by AHC policies/procedures that pertain to the student clinical site and patient population, including documentation guidelines and confidentiality of protected health information in the electronic health record. Access to the electronic health record is granted to the student in accordance to guidelines established by Information Services.

d. Maintains current Wisconsin RN license.

e. Will seek consultation and guidance appropriately from the preceptor and/or Aurora Nursing academic liaison to address student issues related to the placement.

f. Provide faculty contact information and course requirements with expectations of the clinical experience and student competencies. Provide evaluation criteria and tools for competency assessment of the student.

g. Initiates communication (face-to-face or by telephone) with the APRN preceptor prior to the start of the clinical experience to discuss the course requirements and expectations for the clinical experience and development of student competencies.

h. Agrees to be available to respond the student and/or APRN preceptor within 24 hours of request. Provides contact information to the preceptor prior to the start of the clinical.

i. Completes AHC student evaluation forms within the designated timeframe.
Aurora Health Care System Administrative and Clinical Manual

Cross References:  
Aurora Health Care Privilege and Credentialing Documents  
Clinician Student Documentation Policy (Pending)  
Nonemployees Working in Aurora Health Care (#159)

Owner:  
Clinical Policy Coordinator, System Nursing Operations

References:  
Wisconsin Statutes:  
Chapter 441, Board of Nursing http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/441.pdf  
Chapter 8, Certification of Advanced Practice Nurse Prescribers,  
Chapter N1, Program Approval for Schools of Nursing,  
http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/n/1.pdf

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