

STUDENT HEALTH POLICIES

Purpose

Nursing studies at Lamar University include practicum learning experience, which may present a potential risk of contracting and/or spreading infections. It is imperative that nursing students maintain optimal health. Students must be well informed in methods of safeguarding the health of both patient and self. In addition to protecting the health of students and patients, the student health policies address the requirements as directed by Lamar University, the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The nursing program requirements are titled Practicum Readiness Documents (PRDs).

Included in this group of documents are the Health Statement Form, current cardiopulmonary resuscitation training (CPR), proof of liability insurance, immunizations, and TB skin testing. The JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing has partnered with StudentCheck/Sentry MD, a PRD tracking service to receive, record, update, and report student's compliance with all practicum readiness requirements.

Policy

1. Health Statement Form

A completed Health Statement Form must be submitted to StudentCheck/Sentry MD, **prior to the deadline given** when entering the nursing program. Thereafter, the Health Statement Form must be submitted annually, one week prior to the first class day as published by the university academic calendar. The required immunizations must be initiated by the date indicated in the admission packet. Pregnant students, if in need of immunizations, are to consult their personal physicians for guidance. In event of identification of potential/actual conditions that may interfere with the student's ability to fulfill curriculum outcomes, the student will be referred to the Director of Undergraduate Nursing Studies.

2. Student Health and Practicum Attendance

A. Minor Contagious Illness

In the event of contracting minor contagious illnesses such as upper respiratory infections with cough and fever, influenza, contagious skin lesions, or other disorders spread by droplets, secretions, or skin contact, the student should seek medical consultation prior to participating in practicum experience.

B. Serious Illness, Injury, Surgery, or Pregnancy

In the event of a serious illness, injury, surgery or pregnancy, the student must obtain a physician's release prior to participating in the practicum experience. In addition, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines relating to infected health care workers must be adhered to, as applicable (see the Attendance, Absence, and Change of Life Event Policy).

3. Student Injury in Practicum Area

A. Personal injury, non-infectious

In event of accidental personal injury related to patient care, the student must:

- (1) Notify the practicum instructor.
- (2) Seek medical assistance from personal physician or emergency care services, as needed.
- (3) Implement variance/occurrence policy of health care facility, with assistance from practicum instructor.

B. Personal Injury, infectious

In the event of an accidental injury such as a contaminated needle stick, the student must:

- (1) Notify the practicum instructor.
- (2) Notify the infection control nurse employed by the health care facility.
- (3) Seek medical assistance at own expense.
- (4) Follow the current guidelines for immediate and follow-up care as recommended by the CDC.
- (5) Implement variance occurrence/policy of health care facility, with assistance from practicum instructor.

4. Health Care Expenses

Lamar University JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing does not assume financial responsibility for student health care. Expense for all health care, such as physical examinations, immunizations, laboratory and other diagnostic tests, treatment of illnesses and injuries (including those incurred while in the practicum settings) is the responsibility of the student. The student may refer to the Lamar University Comprehensive Catalog regarding availability of student health services.

5. Confidentiality

Student health records shall be maintained in a confidential manner.

Adopted 3/1/03; Revised May 1998; Revised 5/12/99, 10/20/2014, Revised UNS 11/18/2016