

OKLAHOMA BOARD OF NURSING
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Medic Veteran to Licensed Practical Nurse Bridge Course Guideline

- I. Introduction/Purpose: Per 59 O.S. Section 567.20, *on or before December 31, 2015, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing shall develop program guidelines for approved nursing education programs to utilize in transitioning veterans with prior military medical training and experience into nursing education programs.* The bridge course meets all requirements set forth by the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules*, to provide US Veterans possessing previous military medical training, the opportunity to articulate through a practical nursing program with graduation from the program in order to apply for the NCLEX-PN national licensure exam.
- II. Definitions
- A. “Eligibility” means a Veteran who has completed Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program (Navy/Air Force), Air Force Independent Duty Medical Technician, or Army Health Care Specialist training.
- III. Policy/Guideline
- A. In order to participate in the Medic Veteran to Licensed Practical Nurse Bridge Course (Medic Veteran Bridge Course), a Veteran must be eligible in accordance with the definition in II. A.
- B. Board-approved practical nurse programs may accept veterans with prior military medical training and award advance standing for previously gained healthcare knowledge, skills and abilities following the program’s advanced standing policy.
- C. Faculty teaching in the Medic-Veteran Bridge Course will meet requirements of Licensed Practical Nursing faculty in accordance with the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules*.
- D. At the Practical Nursing program’s discretion, Medic Veteran-students may proceed at their own pace, provided that a minimum of 300 hours are provided in didactic (to include skills lab) and clinical settings. Additional hours may be required based upon the faculty’s evaluation of competency, provided that total Bridge Course hours do not exceed 600 hours. Completion of the Medic Veteran Bridge Course will be based on achievement of competencies, as validated by written examinations and skill check-offs.
- E. Clinical learning experiences will be provided under the supervision of a faculty member.

- F. In order for the Medic Veteran-student to apply for LPN licensure, the Medic Veteran-student who completes the Medic Veteran Bridge Course must present to the Board an official transcript showing the applicant has graduated from the practical nursing program.

IV. Pedagogical Instructional Focus: Content to be covered must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Roles and responsibilities of the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in current health care settings:
 - 1. Scope of practice, as established in the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act*; and
 - 2. Practice guidelines, as established by the Oklahoma Board of Nursing;
- B. Concepts, Diseases and Disorders in the Care of Patients:
 - 1. Geriatric
 - 2. Adult
 - 3. Pediatric and Maternal/Newborn
 - 4. Mental Health
- C. Skill Competencies:
 - 1. Fundamental skills
 - 2. Medication administration to include:
 - a. Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of medications;
 - b. Nursing considerations in medication administration; and
 - c. Dosage calculation.
 - 3. Intravenous therapy administration
- D. Clinical Instruction Areas:
 - 1. Long-Term Care
 - 2. Medical-Surgical
 - 3. Pediatric
 - 4. Maternal/Newborn
 - 5. Mental health
 - 6. Community-based

V. Course Objectives:

- A. Identify differences between the military healthcare role and the Licensed Practical Nurse role as defined by the *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules*;
- B. Differentiate members of the healthcare team;
- C. Apply anatomy and physiology concepts to patient care;
- D. Describe the role of the practical nurse in utilizing time management, interpersonal communication, delegation and organizational skills; and
- E. Demonstrate safe and competent nursing in patient care experiences across the life span.

VI. Course Outline: Recommended sequencing of content; final content sequencing to be determined by instructional faculty.

- A. Critical Thinking:
 - 1. Nursing Process
 - a. Data Collection
 - (i) Health history components
 - (ii) Head-to-toe (full) assessment versus focused assessment
 - b. Planning
 - c. Implementation
 - d. Evaluation
 - e. Documentation
 - (i) Electronic health record
 - 2. Therapeutic communication
- B. Role Development:
 - 1. Role transition from Veteran medic to the role of the practical nurse
 - 2. Collaboration within the health care team
 - a. Communication
 - b. Conflict resolution
 - c. Delegation
 - d. Role in patient education and discharge planning
 - 3. Scope of practice
 - a. Standards of practice for the practical nurse
 - b. *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules*
 - c. Facility-specific guidelines
 - 4. Legal and Ethical consideration in patient care
 - 5. Licensure process
 - a. National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX)
 - b. State Board of Nursing
 - 6. Transition into employment sector
 - a. Professional appearance
 - b. Professional communication
 - c. Resumes
 - d. Interview skills
- C. Holism:
 - 1. Cultural, religious, and spiritual considerations
 - 2. Developmental life span stages:
 - a. Growth and development
 - b. Cognitive, psychosocial, and moral development
- D. Health promotion and disease prevention
- E. Safe Nursing Practice:
 - 1. Nursing care of Pediatric/Adult/Geriatric and Maternal/Newborn patients with select alterations in health, anatomy/physiology, applicable laboratory and diagnostic examinations, medical management, nursing process, pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of applicable medication classifications
 - a. Diseases/Disorders of the cardiovascular and peripheral vascular system

- b. Diseases/Disorders of the respiratory system
- c. Diseases/Disorders of the gastrointestinal system
- d. Diseases/Disorders of the endocrine system
- e. Diseases/Disorders of the immune system
- f. Diseases/Disorders of the integumentary system
- g. Diseases/Disorders of the hematologic and lymphatic system
- h. Diseases/Disorders of the reproductive system
- i. Diseases/Disorders of the musculoskeletal system
- j. Diseases/Disorders of the genitourinary system
- k. Diseases/Disorders of the neurologic system
- l. Fluid/electrolyte and acid/base balance
- m. Oncology
- n. Mental health diseases/disorders
 - (i) Behavior management
 - (ii) Crisis intervention
- o. Surgical patient
 - (i) Preoperative
 - (ii) Intraoperative
 - (iii) Postoperative
- 2. Nursing care of the antepartum patient and family
- 3. Nursing care of the intrapartum patient and family
- 4. Nursing care of the postpartum patient and family
- 5. Nursing care of the neonate

VII. Selected Clinical Skills/Therapeutic Procedures:

- A. Assisting patients with activities of daily living:
 - 1. Feeding
 - 2. Dressing
 - 3. Bed bathing
 - 4. Positioning
 - 5. Ambulating and transferring
 - 6. Toileting
 - 7. Grooming
- B. Vital signs
- C. Shift focal assessment
- D. Internal and external disaster planning
- E. Handling hazardous and infectious materials
- F. Ergonomic principles
- G. Use of restraint and safety devices
- H. Admission/transfer/discharge procedures
- I. Wound care
- J. Heat/cold therapy
- K. Oxygen therapy

- L. Urinary catheter
- M. Ostomy
- N. Nasogastric/feeding tube
- O. Chest tube
- P. Care of the patient receiving a blood transfusion
- Q. Tracheostomy
- R. Electrocardiogram/cardiac monitoring
- S. Medication administration:
 - 1. Medication orders
 - 2. Drug preparations
 - 3. Dosage calculations
 - 4. Preparation of medications
 - 5. Medication administration methods
 - 6. Documentation
- T. Intravenous infusion therapy/venipuncture:
 - 1. Practical Nurse scope of practice:
 - (i) *Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act and Rules*
 - (ii) Legal implications
 - (iii) Documentation
 - 2. Blood collection
 - 3. Principles of intravenous therapy:
 - (i) Routine care and maintenance
 - (ii) Catheter site care
 - (iii) Flushing catheter with saline
 - (iv) Patient evaluation
 - (v) Equipment
 - 4. Complications/adverse reactions:
 - (i) Local
 - (ii) Mechanical
 - (iii) Systemic
 - 5. Insertion of peripheral intravenous catheters
 - 6. Discontinuation of peripheral intravenous catheters
 - 7. Pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics for select intravenous fluids and medications:
 - (i) Hypo-/Iso-/Hypertonic solutions
 - (ii) Premixed/admixed medications
 - 8. Dosage calculations/regulating rates
 - 9. Administration of select intravenous solutions:
 - (i) Un-medicated solutions
 - (ii) Premixed/admixed medications
 - 10. Care and maintenance of central line
- U. Clinical skills/therapeutic procedures for the maternal/newborn patient/family
 - 1. Data collection

- V. Clinical skills/therapeutic procedures for the pediatric patient:
1. Data collection
 2. Medication administration

VIII. Selected References

Gateway Community College (2013). *Veteran's/LPN Bridge Course*. Retrieved February 16, 2018, from: <http://www.gatewaycc.edu/veterans-lpn-bridge>

National Council State Boards of Nursing (2013). *NCSBN Analysis: A comparison of selected military health care occupation curricula with a standard licensed practical/vocational nurse curriculum*. Retrieved February 16, 2018, from: https://www.ncsbn.org/13_NCSBNAnalysis_MilitaryLPNVN_final_April2013.pdf