This course of study presents the required sequence of learning activities developed to assist you in achieving competency in the safety and regulatory requirements mandated by the Joint Commission and Occupational Safety and Health Association (OSHA). Your competency will be evaluated by your completion of four modules in HealthStream. This course represents one competency unit and should be completed in one week. Learning activities are presented in a sequential order and often build upon prior activities and skills, it is therefore important that you complete the course of study in the order presented. Please do not take the HealthStream exams prior to the first day of enrollment in this course. The grade will not be counted and you will be required to re-take the exam.

Introduction

Introduction
Why do we need regulation in healthcare? What is at stake for the patients and the care providers? We can begin by looking at the Joint Commission, an independent and non-profit organization that accredits health care environments and programs in the United States in an effort to ensure safe, quality care. You, the care provider, must protect your patients, yourself, and your environment from harm. The Joint Commission looks at everything from patient confidentiality to fire prevention. The nurse must recognize and respond to safety hazards, implement necessary precautions, and keep abreast of research findings that enhance safety in the workplace. The majority of hospitals and clinics require their employees to receive annual training and certification in safety regulations. You will apply the principles learned in this course every time you step into a clinical environment.

Watch the following welcome video for an introduction to this course:

Competencies
This course provides guidance to help you demonstrate the following competency:

- **Competency 724.3.3: Safety**
  The graduate recognizes why it is important to analyze the system rather than blame the individual when an error or near-miss occurs; participates in the design of system improvements based on error or near-miss analysis; communicates observations and concerns related to hazards; reports errors to patients, families, surrogates, and the healthcare team as applicable; and encourages active involvement by patients in their own care as a patient safety strategy.

Nursing Dispositions Statement
Please review the Statement of Nursing Dispositions.

Required Learning Resources:

- HealthStream: Clinical I, Clinical II, Non-Clinical I, and Non-Clinical II modules for safety and regulation.
Preparing for Success

To successfully complete the Organizational Systems: Safety and Regulation course of study, you will need to sign up for HealthStream. You should also prepare a calendar to schedule time devoted to your studies. Share your calendar with family and friends so they are aware of your obligations.

Acquire Learning Resources

Arrange to obtain the learning resources listed in the next sections so there will be no delays in your studies. These items are essential for you, and this document will guide you in the use of these materials. These resources will help you in acquiring competency in organizational systems and quality leadership.

Enroll in HealthStream

You will need to enroll in Healthstream. The modules provide verification of required hospital training such as HIPAA and safety.

To access the modules, please follow these instructions:

2. Click the "First time students click here to register" link.
3. Fill in the required fields (indicated by a star).
   - Username: enter your WGU username
   - Password: healthstream
   - Hire/Re-hire Date: select the current date
   - Department: MAP RN-WGU BSN
   - Job Title: WGU STUDENT
   - Active Date: select the current date

Once you access the Healthstream site, you will complete four modules (Clinical I, Clinical II, Non-Clinical I and Non-Clinical II). Upon completion of these modules, you will download your information for receipt of your certificate. Please contact your course instructor should you have questions about this training.

Participate in Course Chatter

The course chatter is an important part of the WGU experience. The course chatter is located to the right hand side of the course of study under the Course Search feature. Throughout your studies, you will want to follow the questions, observations, and responses of the other students and the expert advice of the course instructor. If you have questions of your own, do not hesitate to use this resource to get those answered as you develop your competencies.

Take Study Notes

As you engage in the activities throughout this course of study, you will be answering questions, completing exercises, sketching out concepts, and so forth. You have the ability to take these notes online through the web-enabled course of study. A notebook or study journal (either on paper or electronically) makes your learning more active. It also provides an excellent source of
important materials to review prior to demonstrating your competencies through the assessment.

**Evaluation**

You must complete the HealthStream modules to receive a passing grade in this course. You will need your transcripts for future courses.

**Nursing Standards**

You will be able to access Nursing Professional Standards as they apply to your program through the WGU Library. Please access these documents at the following website:

- [Nursing Standards E-Reserves](#)

**Pacing Guide**

The pacing guide suggests a weekly structure to pace your completion of learning activities. It is provided as a suggestion and does not represent a mandatory schedule. Follow the pacing guide carefully to complete the course in the suggested timeframe.

**Week 1**

**Preparing for Success**

1. Read the Introduction
2. View the Introduction Video
3. Enroll in HealthStream through the Resource tab.
4. Access the Nursing Standards E-Reserves

**Safety Modules in HealthStream**

1. Read the articles:
   1. Culture of Safety Reduces Medication Errors
   2. Transforming Care at the Bedside Initiative
   3. Medication Safety
   4. Root Cause Analysis
2. Complete the following modules in HealthStream:
   1. Clinical I
   2. Clinical II
   3. Non-Clinical I
   4. Non-Clinical II

*Note: This pacing guide does not replace the course. Please continue to refer to the course for a comprehensive list of the resources and activities.*

**Safety**
Medical errors are one of the nation's leading causes of death and injury. A recent report by the Institute of Medicine estimates that as many as 44,000 to 98,000 people die in U.S. hospitals each year as the result of medical errors. This means that more people die from medical errors than from motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer, or AIDS. The nurse needs to be responsible for the care given to patients as well as safety for self and co-workers. Communication regarding safety issues and errors needs to be clear and transparent. Process improvement strategies help nurses focus on resolving the problem rather than merely giving or receiving blame. The ability to develop an attitude of responsibility toward process improvement can sometimes be intimidating for nurses; however, it is one of the most paramount obligations that exist in the profession.

**Safety**

The graduate recognizes why it is important to analyze the system rather than blame the individual when an error or near-miss occurs; participates in the design of system improvements based on error or near-miss analysis; communicates observations and concerns related to hazards; reports errors to patients, families, surrogates, and the healthcare team as applicable; and encourages active involvement by patients in their own care as a patient safety strategy.

**Safety: A Culture of Change**

The National Patient Safety Foundation supports mandatory reporting with no blame. See why by reading [Culture of Safety Reduces Medication Errors](#).

Post your answers to the following questions in the course chatter.

- Why is the absence of blame essential to the effectiveness of this initiative?
- The Veteran's Administration emphasized prevention, not punishment. How can nurse leaders facilitate this culture change?

**Transforming Care at the Bedside**

Please review the Overview Page on the IHI Website for the [Transforming Care at the Bedside Initiative](#). Also review the Improvement Stories entitled “Good Heart Failure Care Follows Patients Home” and “Improving Care at the Bedside is a Team Effort,” and answer the following questions.

- How do these articles relate to the IHI national initiative of Transforming Care at the Bedside?
- Examine the impact of this IHI program. How does it guide care decisions?

Be sure to follow the "More" links at the bottom of the page to read all the information. Post your answers to the following questions in the course chatter:

- How can data from these initiatives be used to enhance quality patient care?
- What other national initiatives guide care decisions?

**Making Care Safer**

Read the article on [Medication Safety](#).
What is the consumer’s role in medication safety? Post a message in the course chatter that describes how you would help a patient understand his or her role in preventing medication errors.

Review the [2016 National Patient Safety Goals](#). Select one goal and describe how one or more nursing intervention can help achieve the goal. Post you description in the course chatter.

Read [Root Cause Analysis](#):

- How would you use a root cause analysis to review an actual or near-miss event? Post your answer in the course chatter.

**HealthStream**

You have enrolled in HealthStream through your Degree Plan and received log-in information from the Learning Resources Department. Begin to work through the modules. You should complete Clinical I, Clinical II, Non-Clinical I and Non-Clinical II.

**Final Review**

Congratulations! You have completed a major course in your journey toward a baccalaureate degree in nursing. This course was very comprehensive and provided the foundation for your future nursing career in the area of healthcare systems and quality leadership. It took a great deal of effort, so be proud of yourself!

**Review of Major Points**

Some of the major points in this course of study are:

- Safety and national quality initiatives
- Patient safety and prevention of errors
- Safety in the environment for self and others

You have studied about patient safety such as medication errors, blood borne pathogens, and patient confidentiality. You have learned about safety in your work environment such as electrical safety, proper ergonomics, and fire safety.

**Transfer/Application to Work**

The concepts you have learned and the exercises you have performed are the crucial foundations for the safe practice of nursing. The focus is on meeting the mandatory requirements set by the Joint Commission and OSHA. You will build on these skills throughout the program as you learn about hospital acquired conditions and never events.

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**Transfer/Application to Work**

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Next Steps: Assessment
For this task you must complete the following safety and regulation modules in HealthStream:

1. Clinical I
2. Clinical II
3. Non-Clinical I
4. Non-Clinical II

You should have completed the above modules as you worked through this course of study. You will need your transcripts for future courses.

Check to see that the "Pass" is on your Degree Plan is posted because this is one of the prerequisites for attending the learning lab and participating in clinical intensive.