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.

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.

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**

Go to the learning resource tab for this course of study in the Degree Plan. Enroll in Healthstream.

**Participate in Course of Study Message Board**

The message boards are an important part of the WGU experience. In the lower right-hand corner of the course of study screen there is a message board area. Throughout your studies, you will want to follow the questions, observations, and responses of the other students and the expert advice of the course mentor. 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 to submit these into TaskStream in order for the grade to post. Please view the video to assist you in accomplishing this task.

*Note: View the video in full screen at 720p for best results.*

**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.

- [Pacing Guide: Organizational Systems: Safety and Regulation](#)

*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.

Competencies covered by this subject
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.

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 on the course message board.

- 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 on the course Message Board:

- 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 on the Message Board that describes how you would help a patient understand his or her role in preventing medication errors.

Read the slides on "Goals 2014 National Patient Safety Goals" Select one goal and describe how one or more nursing intervention can help achieve the goal. Post you description on the Message Board.

Read Root Cause Analysis

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

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.

Next Steps: Assessment

You will submit your scores from HealthStream to TaskStream. Be sure you have completed all four modules. 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.

The following video will assist you in ensuring your scores are submitted to TaskStream.

Note: View the video in full screen at 720p for best results.

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.

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 tasks as you worked through this course of study. If you have not submitted the tasks in TaskStream, do so now.

- GZT1: Task 1 - URL Submission Form
- GZT1: Task 1 - Transcript Submission

Watch the following video for assistance with submitting your forms through TaskStream:

When you submit your results, be sure to verify that your transcript includes all four modules.

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.

Feedback

WGU values your input! If you have comments, concerns, or suggestions for improvement of this course, please submit your feedback using the following form:
Accessibility Policy

Western Governors University recognizes and fulfills its obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and similar state laws. Western Governors University is committed to provide reasonable accommodation(s) to qualified disabled learners in University programs and activities as is required by applicable law(s). The Office of Student Accessibility Services serves as the principal point of contact for students seeking accommodations and can be contacted at ADASupport@wgu.edu. Further information on WGU’s Accessibility Policy policy and process can be viewed in the student handbook at the following link:

- Policies and Procedures for Students with Disabilities