

Patient Care

- Patient care is our top priority at Swedish Medical Center. It is the clinical instructor's responsibility to teach/observe/sign-off clinical skills with the student. If the clinical instructor cannot observe a first-time procedure with the student, the staff nurse will implement the procedure/medication administration. The clinical instructor must approve any supervision by a staff nurse for a student's first-time procedure. Students are responsible for knowing this policy and understanding that patient care may not be compromised for learning experiences. Instructors are to familiarize themselves with Swedish Medical Center specific procedures prior to assisting the student.
- All vital signs and any changes in patient condition are to be promptly reported to the RN responsible for the patient.
- IV medications may be given by students without their instructor present if this has been approved by the instructor. Students are to have IV medications checked by an RN prior to administration.
- Only nursing students who are in their final practicum may insert IVs. Students must complete orientation and competency assessment prior to IV insertion on patients independently. Instructors cannot insert peripheral IVs.
- Wasting of any controlled substances requires witnessing by two RNs. Nursing students cannot sign as witness.
- Nursing students may not check or administer blood components. Two RNs must check patient identification and blood components prior to administration to a patient.
- Undergraduate nursing students and instructors may not administer medication into epidural catheters, nor manage epidural infusions or continuous subcutaneous infusions, even under the observation of a staff RN. They may not administer chemotherapy, i.e., any medication in the Chemotherapy Manual.
- Nursing students in their final clinical quarter may manage PCA pumps for intravenous (not epidural) medication administration. The nursing student should discuss changes in dosage or intervals with the RN responsible for the patient before making changes on the pump.
- Pre-licensure and RN refresher course nursing students cannot take verbal or telephone orders or "acknowledge" orders in the EMR.