

## ***Lane Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Program***

### ***Policy on Safety for All Individuals Involved In Clinical Education***

The LCC PTA Program promotes the safety of all individuals involved in the clinical education portion of the curriculum, through procedures outlined in the Program Policy Manual. Safety training will be included and emphasized throughout the PTA Program, in skill checks and practical exams, and, in the core PTA classes for certification in adult, infant, and child CPR. Safety criteria and minimum standards for preparing for, entering and completing clinical education have been documented in Section 6, *Clinical Learning Foundations and Learning Outcomes*. Additional safety policies continue below:

#### **Body Fluid Splashes and other Accidents/Incidents During Clinical**

Students must report all body fluid splashes, needle sticks, and other events that could endanger the health of the student to their clinical faculty. Lane Community College is not responsible for medical care in result of such injuries.

All students follow college policy regarding Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure <http://www.lanecc.edu/cops/pathog.htm>

#### ***Exposure Incidents***

Exposure incidents need to be medically evaluated within 2 hours of exposure.

All college employees are considered to be SAIF-eligible (covered by workers compensation coverage) while performing their college jobs, including Cooperative Work Experience (CWE), Workstudy, and Learn and Earn students.

#### ***Staff covered by workers compensation coverage (SAIF):***

Call Cascade Health Solutions at 2650 Suzanne Way #200, Springfield, 541-228-3096 immediately and make arrangements to be seen. If Cascade Health Solutions is not available the employee should go to the emergency room of a major hospital and state that they have an occupational exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens.

Complete a SAIF accident form. Human Resources will provide assistance to the department and employee in completing the required worker's compensation insurance paperwork.

#### ***Persons not covered by workers compensation coverage:***

For example visitors to campus, students in labs, etc shall be directed to seek medical care within two hours at a major hospital. Treatment and evaluation costs are the responsibility of the person seeking treatment.

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Staff need to document persons name and advise given. A student accident form needs to be completed.

### ***Record Keeping***

Human Resources is responsible for maintaining training records.

### ***Definitions***

Bloodborne Pathogens - Any pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Occupational Exposure - Having a reasonable chance of skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral (piercing) contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials in the performance of assigned job duties.

Staff Covered by Workers Compensation Coverage – SAIF eligible: All college employees including Cooperative Work Experience (CWE), Workstudy, and Learn and Earn students while performing their college jobs.

### ***Other Accidents or Incidents***

other accidents must be reported to the clinical facility and to the student's clinical instructor. The incident is to be documented at Lane Community College via the Student Accident Report form.

### ***Procedures for Safety for All Individuals Involved In Clinical Education***

1. The student will have completed all of the criteria outlined in Section 6, *Clinical Experience Preparation*, of this Program Policy Manual.
2. The facility will provide emergency care if the student is injured, becomes ill, or is exposed to an infectious disease. The student is responsible for the cost of these services.
3. The procedure for returning to the facility after the student has had an infectious disease is outlined in the facility's policies.
4. The student will be under adequate supervision while completing the clinical experience.
5. The student can be removed from the facility when safety of patients is at risk.
6. Students will have demonstrated safety in case simulations, including infection control and critical safety elements for patient care.

### ***Responsibility for Student Competency***

If the clinical instructor teaches the student a skill that was not covered in the program, the clinical instructor is responsible for determining the competence of the student in performing the

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skill on patients. If the skill was taught within the PTA Program, the college is responsible for assuring competence with the skill.

### ***Safe Practice Policy***

Physical Therapist Assistant, different from many other academic disciplines, is a practice discipline. In physical therapy education, the principles of patient care are taught in the classroom and applied by students in practice learning situations. These include caring for patients in clinical settings under clinical faculty supervision. Inherent in this practice are the rights of patients. Every patient has the right to the services of a reasonably competent physical therapist assistant, and the right to expect from physical therapist assistant students the same standard of care that he or she would receive from a licensed physical therapist assistant performing similar activities. This includes protection from unsafe behavior. Patients have the right to refuse supervised treatment by a SPTA.

As a practice discipline, properly learning and integrating safe practice techniques into clinical practice is an essential element of being qualified to continue in the Physical Therapist Assistant academic program. A determination made pursuant to this policy that a student has engaged in unsafe practice in the clinical setting may result in dismissal from the Physical Therapist Assistant program.

Unsafe practice is defined as behavior which threatens, or has the potential to threaten, the safety of a client, another student, a faculty member, or other health care provider in a clinical practice setting which is part of a student's academic program. All matters under this policy shall seek to protect the confidentiality of the parties and be conducted according to procedures approved by Lane community College.

### ***Policy on Exclusion from Clinical***

Clinical instructors have the authority and the responsibility to remove any student from the clinical who is creating an unsafe situation for self or others. These will result in unexcused absences. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Students reporting for a clinical lab session who, in the opinion of the clinical instructor, are demonstrating evidence of being not physically or emotionally able to provide safe patient care.
- Students reporting for a clinical lab session that, in the opinion of the clinical instructor, are not adequately prepared to provide safe patient care.
- Students reporting for a clinical lab session who, in the opinion of the clinical instructor, are too fatigued provide safe patient care.

A student who is permanently excluded from the clinical laboratory for unsafe physical therapist assistant behaviors shall receive failing grade (less than "C") in that course, or may withdraw in accordance with college policy.

### ***Unsatisfactory Student Behaviors***

Factors which contribute to failure to meet course objectives include but are not limited to:

**Excessive absences** - If a student is unable to successfully complete a course, he/she may be dropped or be given failing grade, based upon the amount of content/clinical experience missed, and inability to proceed due to lack of prerequisite content. A student who has

four or more unresolved absences at the end of the term will be referred to the Admission & Retention Committee for evaluation of the student's ability to makeup those absences.

**Inability to meet course objectives** -. These may include repeated failure to:

- Apply theory and principles to clinical practice.
- Plan, organize and fulfill the tasks assigned by the instructor.
- Communicate effectively with patients, instructors and peers; and inability to understand verbal and nonverbal communications.
- Attain minimal competency in the skills required for safe clinical performance.
- Respond appropriately to instruction and suggestions made by those in authority.
- Perform in a safe and dexterous manner in relation to self and patients.
- Assume responsibility for satisfactorily preparing and completing clinical assignments made by the instructor.
- Demonstrate growth in coping with stressful situations in a calm and dependable manner.
- Demonstrate improvement in clinical laboratory performance within period designated by the instructor.
- Attain a passing grade as stated in the course syllabus.

**Demonstrate Unsafe Clinical Performance** -. Unsafe clinical behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Threaten the physical safety of the patient (e.g, neglects use of side rails, restraints; comes unprepared to clinical; leaves bed in high position).
- Threaten the psychological safety of the patient (e.g, uses clichés repeatedly; does not encourage verbalization, or is not aware of difference in ability to communicate).
- Threaten the microbiological safety of the patient (e.g, does not recognize violation of aseptic technique; comes sick to clinical experience; does not recognize violation of isolation precautions; does not hand wash adequately).
- Threaten the thermal safety of the patient (e.g, burns patient with heating lamp, etc.)
- Inadequately and/or inaccurately utilize the physical therapy plan of care (e.g, fails to observe and/or report critical information regarding patients; makes repeated faulty judgments in interventions).
- Violate previously mastered principles/learning objectives in carrying out physical therapist assistant interventions (e.g., unable to administer modalities safely by second year of program)
- Threaten legal/ethical scope of practice by assuming inappropriate independence in actions or decisions (e.g., fails to seek supervision when situation is questionable, out of control, or in an emergency).
- Threaten legal/ethical scope of practice by assuming inappropriate level of independence when performing a procedure for which that student is inadequately prepared or is unsure how to proceed in a confident manner.
- Threaten legal/ethical scope of practice by providing physical therapist assistant care as a student in a clinical setting without the knowledge or supervision of a faculty member.
- Suspicion of being impaired due to prescription medication use or misuse

Any violation of criteria for unsafe clinical performance will be reviewed by the faculty and Program Coordinator, and will be handled individually regarding students' continuation in the program.

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Behaviors relating to responsibility, accountability and meeting time commitments are essential in the professional physical therapist assistant. These behaviors need to be demonstrated by all students consistently over time across the curriculum. Notice of failing behavior relative to these areas of responsibility, accountability and meeting time commitments will be forwarded from one instructor to the next instructor to ensure that students will be given the encouragement, support and limit-setting to facilitate the learning of these essential professional behaviors. Student behaviors which results in a Notice of Failing Behavior in any one term, if repeated in a subsequent term, can result in immediate reinstatement of Notice of Failing Behavior.

### ***Clinical Probation***

Clinical probation, similar in intent to academic probation, alerts both faculty and student of the need for increased attention to specific behavior and objectives required to progress and successfully pass the current course. Decision to place a student on clinical probation is a decision of the whole faculty team.

A verbal and written Notice of Failing Behavior is initiated by the clinical instructor to identify the unmet objectives and/or student behaviors that are not evidencing progression. This student and faculty will meet weekly to evaluate the progression of behaviors. Every effort will be made to assist the student to succeed. However if the objectives continue to be unmet and/or the student behaviors do not show steady improvement to the passing level, the student will receive a failing grade. Students who do not pass clinical may not continue to the next clinical course in the program regardless of academic performance in other courses. Students must complete clinical education courses in sequence. Students who receive two failing grades for clinical education in any sequence are dismissed from the program. Upon re-entry to the program, both the clinical and theory course must be taken again.

### ***Summary of Student Responsibilities during Clinical Education***

Students have the responsibility to:

- abide by the policies, procedures, rules and regulations of the clinical agency in effect when student is at the hospital/facility.
- pay for their own health care, transportation, parking, food and beverages and any expenses associated with their education.
- carry individual health and accident insurance during their assigned clinical experience. Students who are injured or become ill while in the clinical area responsible for their own medical care including any charges.
- assume responsibility for any personal illness, necessary immunizations, tuberculin tests, chest x-rays, and health exams, and to provide documentation of such to the facility or Lane Community College upon request.
- be aware of prescription medications that may impair their ability to complete clinical education safely and advise clinical instructors accordingly
- keep in confidence any and all privileged information concerning all patients.
- keep the Health Professions Program office informed of any change in name, address or phone number.
- evaluate their own clinical performance and to review the evaluation written by the faculty.