

## NURSE CLINICIAN FORUM STANDARDS

**CATEGORY:** System-Level Clinical

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**TITLE:** **ADVANCED NURSING SKILLS – CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

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### PURPOSE

To ensure that certified Registered Nurses (RN) and Registered Practical Nurses (RPN) perform selected nursing skills as required and authorized in their areas.

### STANDARDS

Certification	<p>Certification in advanced nursing skills is a 4-step process:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instruction (self-learning programs, classroom instruction, and/or clinical demonstration) in specific aspects of the advanced nursing skill(s), presented by the nurse clinician/designate.</li> <li>2. Review of a teaching program and attainment of designated passing grade on a testing component.</li> <li>3. Clinical supervision in the advanced nursing skill(s) by a staff member certified in the skill (nurse clinician/designate). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of a Verification of Skill form, which is forwarded to the nurse clinician/designate for record keeping.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
Unit-Specific Skills	<p>Unit-specific advanced nursing skills will be selected by the clinical manager in consultation with the nurse clinician/designate to ensure that appropriate skills are in place to meet patient care needs. If additional skill development is deemed necessary, this will be arranged in partnership with the nurse clinician/designate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registrants are responsible to maintain current clinical status in all required advanced nursing skills relevant to their clinical area.</li> </ul>
Recertification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recertification in advanced nursing skills is suggested every two to three years for infrequently practiced skills. Staff can self-identify if they require additional training.</li> </ul>

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<p>Transfer of Advanced Nursing Skills from Other Institutions</p>	<p>It is the responsibility of the nurse to present all records of certification in advanced nursing skills achieved at other facilities to their clinical manager during the hiring process.</p> <p>Cross-certification will apply only to those skills approved and performed at HSN.</p> <p>The clinical manager and nurse clinician will determine orientation requirements based on the employee’s record of previous certification, and may request that a complete re-certification be undertaken if necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-certification in delegated controlled acts will <u>not</u> be accepted.</li> </ul>
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**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Definitions**

1. Certification: Certification in specific advanced nursing skills is required in specific patient care areas. Certification involves a four stage process. As per the College of Nurses, nurses must possess the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform any procedure.
2. Specially Trained Nurses: Have the knowledge surrounding current policy and procedure, the skill to perform the procedure and the judgment to manage the potential complications of performing the procedure. Nurses new to the skill will perform the procedure with an experienced nurse until having acquired the knowledge, skill and judgment to perform the task.

**Education/Training Related Information**

The College of Nurses has four standards describing a nurse’s accountability when performing any procedure.

1. *Appropriate Health Care Provider* - Nurses must consider each situation to determine if the performance of the procedure promotes safe and effective client care, and if it is appropriate for a nurse to perform the procedure.
2. *Authority* - Nurses ensure that they have the appropriate authority before performing procedures.
3. *Competence* - Nurses ensure that they are competent in both the cognitive and technical aspects of procedures prior to performing them.
4. *Managing Outcomes* - Prior to performing procedures, nurses ensure that they are able to identify the potential outcomes of procedures, have the authority and competence to manage the outcomes, or have the resources available to manage those outcomes.

**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A**

Advanced Nursing Skills for Registered Nurses

Advanced Nursing Skill	Clinical Area
<b>Automated External Defibrillator (AED)</b>	All Clinical Areas
<b>Bivalving / Splitting and Removal of Casts</b>	Ambulatory Care Unit Emergency Department Orthopedics
<p><b>Central Venous Catheters, Management and Removal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treatment of Thrombotic Occlusions Using Alteplase</li> </ul> <p><u>Types of Central Venous Catheters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-tunnelled (short term)</li> <li>• Tunnelled</li> <li>• Implanted</li> <li>• PICC lines</li> </ul>	<p>All Clinical Areas <u>except</u> the Birthing Center, and Operating Room</p> <p>Inpatient Psychiatry, Inpatient Addictions Medicine, and <u>only</u> manage PICC lines.</p> <p>Removal of tunnelled and implanted central lines is a surgical procedure.</p> <p>Non-tunneled hemodialysis femoral catheters are removed in Nephrology.</p>
<b>Chest Tubes, Management and Removal</b>	<p><u>Management</u></p> <p>All Clinical Areas <u>except</u> the Birthing Center, Inpatient Psychiatry, Inpatient Addictions Medicine, Intensive Rehabilitation Unit and Nephrology. An Operating Room nurse may assist with the <u>insertion</u> of a chest tube only.</p> <p><u>Removal</u></p> <p>All Clinical Areas <u>except</u> the Ambulatory Care Unit/Medical Day, Birthing Center, Inpatient Psychiatry, Intensive Rehabilitation Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Nephrology, Operating Room, and Pediatrics.</p>
<b>Electrical Defibrillation</b>	Cardiodiagnostics Cardiac Medical Unit Emergency Department Heart Failure Disease Management Program Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit
<b>Ear Syringing</b>	Emergency Department
<b>Adult Heart Rhythm Interpretation</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiodiagnostics Cardiology Center for Life Emergency Department Heart Failure Disease Management Program Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit Post Anesthetic Care Unit
<p><b>Epidural Analgesia</b></p> <p>Management and removal of epidural catheter</p>	4 North Oncology Birthing Center Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit

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Advanced Nursing Skill	Clinical Area
	Surgical Program (except Ortho/Neuro, OR)
<b>External Ventricular Drainage / Intracranial Pressure Monitoring</b>	Med Surg Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit
<b>Femoral Arterial Sheath Care and Removal</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiodiagnostics Cardiology Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit
<b>Heart Rhythm Analysis – Basic, Pediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Patients</b>	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Pediatrics
<b>Hemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis</b>	Nephrology
<b>High Risk Hazardous Drugs, Administration of</b> Refer to <i>The Hub &gt; Programs &amp; Services &gt; Pharmacy</i> for a list of hazardous drugs and their associated PPE requirements.	<u>Intravenous &amp; Injectable (certification required)</u> 4 North Oncology Northeast Cancer Center  <u>Intravesicular</u> Ambulatory Care Unit/Medical Day Post Anesthetic Care Unit Surgical Day Care
<b>Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump (IABP)</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiodiagnostics (Cath lab only) CVT Intensive Care Unit
<b>Intravenous Medication Administration below the Drip Chamber</b>	All Clinical Areas <u>except</u> the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Program.
<b>Life Saving Drugs</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiodiagnostics Emergency Department Heart Failure Disease Management Program Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit
<b>Morgan Lens</b>	Emergency Department
<b>Neonatal Nursing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance at High Risk Deliveries</li> <li>• Management/Removal of Umbilical Venous Catheter (UVC)</li> <li>• Management of Umbilical Arterial Catheter (UAC)</li> </ul>	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
<b>NIHSS (National Institute of Health Stroke Scale)</b>	Medicine-General Internal Medicine 5 South
<b>Obstetrical Nursing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fetal health surveillance</li> <li>• Induction / augmentation of labour</li> <li>• Scrub program</li> <li>• Vaginal examination in labour</li> </ul>	Birthing Center
<b>Obtaining Blood Specimen</b>	<u>Arterial Catheter</u> Cardiac Medical Unit Emergency Department Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit Post Anesthetic Care Unit Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

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Advanced Nursing Skill	Clinical Area
	<p><u>Central Venous Catheter</u>                      Cardiac Medical Unit                      Cardiology                      Emergency Department                      Heart Failure Disease Management Program                      Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit                      Intensive Rehabilitation Unit                      Medicine                      Neonatal Intensive Care Unit                      Northeast Cancer Center                      Pediatrics                      Surgical Program (except Operating Room)</p> <p><u>Dialysis Catheter, Hemodialysis Bloodlines and Fistula Needles</u>                      Nephrology</p> <p><u>IV Lines</u>                      Cardiac Medical Unit                      Emergency Department                      Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit                      Northeast Cancer Center                      Pediatrics</p> <p><u>Microcapillary Specimen Collection</u>                      Birthing Center                      Neonatal Intensive Care Unit                      Pediatrics</p> <p><u>Pulmonary Catheter</u>                      Cardiac Medical Unit                      Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit</p> <p><u>UAC/UVC</u>                      Neonatal Intensive Care Unit</p>
<b>Open Heart Patients, Care of</b>	CVT Intensive Care Unit
<b>Parenteral Lines, Management and Removal</b>	<p><u>Arterial Lines</u>                      Cardiac Medical Unit                      Cardiodiagnostics (management only)                      Cardiology (PCI)                      Emergency Department                      Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit                      Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (management only)                      Post Anesthetic Care Unit</p> <p><u>Central Venous Pressure Lines</u>                      Cardiac Medical Unit                      Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit                      Post Anesthetic Care Unit</p> <p><u>Hemodynamic Monitoring</u></p>

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Advanced Nursing Skill	Clinical Area
	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiognostics Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit  <u>Pulmonary Artery Catheters</u> Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiognostics (theory only) Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit
<b>Percutaneous Nephrostomy Tube, Removal</b>	Ambulatory Care Unit
<b>Peripheral Venous Access</b> Initiating and Maintaining Peripheral Venous Access, Maintaining a Saline Lock	All Clinical Areas
<b>Phlebotomies</b>	Ambulatory Care Unit /Medical Day Assertive Community Treatment Team Emergency Department Outreach Services Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
<b>PICC Insertion</b>	Diagnostic Imaging
<b>Pulmonary Dynamics</b> Mechanical Ventilation, Endotracheal Tube Management and Removal	Cardiac Medical Unit (theory only) Cardiognostics (theory only) Emergency Department Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Post Anesthetic Care Unit (ETT management and removal)
<b>Reinfusion of cryopreserved autologous hematopoietic progenitor cells (stem cells)</b>	Northeast Cancer Centre
<b>Sedation (does not include palliative sedation)</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiognostics Emergency Department Endoscopy Heart Failure Disease Management Program Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Operating Room Post Anesthetic Care Unit Pediatrics Northeast Cancer Centre Clinic
<b>Skin Traction Application</b>	Orthopedics
<b>Suturing</b>	Emergency Department Outreach Services
<b>Temporary Pacemaker, Adjusting</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiognostics (Cath lab only) Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit
<b>TOR-BSST© (The Toronto Bedside Swallowing Screening Test©)</b>	Emergency Department Intensive Care Unit/Step Down Medicine-General Internal Medicine 5 South
<b>Transcutaneous Pacemaker, Application and Management</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Cardiognostics Emergency Department Heart Failure Disease Management Program Intensive Care Unit / Step Down Unit
<b>Triage</b>	Emergency Department

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<b>Advanced Nursing Skill</b>	<b>Clinical Area</b>
<b>Ultrasound Guided Peripheral IV Access</b>	Cardiac Medical Unit Critical Care Response Team Emergency Department

**APPENDIX B**

Advanced Nursing Skills for Registered Practical Nurses

<b>Advanced Nursing Skill</b>	<b>Clinical Area</b>
<b>Adult Heart Rhythm Interpretation</b>	Emergency Department Cardiology
<b>Automated External Defibrillator (AED)</b>	All Clinical Areas
<b>Bivalving / Splitting and Removal of Casts</b>	Ambulatory Care Unit Orthopedics Emergency Department
<b>Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)— Care and maintenance (accessing for infusion) Cap and dressing change Removal</b>	All Clinical Areas  Removal is dependent on clinical area  <u>Implanted Central Venous Catheters</u> <u>Emergency</u> Northeast Cancer Centre
<b>Ear Syringing</b>	Emergency Department
<b>Hemodialysis</b>	Nephrology Satellite Units
<b>High Risk Hazardous Drugs, Administration of</b> Refer to <i>The Hub &gt; Programs &amp; Services &gt; Pharmacy</i> for a list of hazardous drugs and their associated PPE requirements.	<u>Injectable hormonal therapies</u> Northeast Cancer Centre  <u>Intravesicular</u> Ambulatory Care Unit/Medical Day Surgical Day Care
<b>IV Patient Controlled Analgesia</b> Initiating IV Line, Changing Rate of Infusion	Surgical Program <u>except</u> Ambulatory Care Unit and Operating Room
<b>Morgan Lens</b>	Emergency Department
<b>NIHSS (National Institute of Health Stroke Scale)</b>	Medicine-General Internal Medicine 5 South
<b>Peritoneal Dialysis</b>	Nephrology Home Dialysis
<b>Phlebotomies</b>	Ambulatory Care Unit/Medical Day Assertive Community Treatment Team
<b>TOR-BSST © (The Toronto Bedside Swallowing Screening Test ©)</b>	Emergency Department Medicine-General Internal Medicine 5 South