

Spring 2018

DEAR NURSING STUDENTS:

Welcome to Parthenon Pavilion! We hope you have a wonderful learning experience here. We are proud of our reputation as a teaching hospital, and we encourage you to take advantage of this clinical rotation. Please know our staff is accustomed to hosting student-nursing groups. It is important to us that you have a good learning experience here. A few topics of importance follow:

PARKING: Students are to park in the Parman Avenue Parking Garage. Please do NOT park in visitor spaces or spaces designated for patients and staff. This means you will be probably be parking on the 5th, 6th or 7th floor (open air top floor) of the garage. If you would like to carpool that would be great, just park in designated areas. You will need to walk out of doors and across the street to get from that lot to Parthenon Pavilion. Please dress accordingly. Please allow time to park. You need to drive slowly (5 MPH) when navigating in the garage. It is not unusual for people to be driving the wrong way in this garage. Security does have a presence in our garages and they will tow your car.

CONFIDENTIALITY! Of course, in any hospital setting, this is an important part of professional nursing care. However, in a psychiatric hospital, it is even more important. The stigma associated with being “mentally ill” is still alive and well – unfortunately. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to be especially sensitive to the feelings and wishes of our patients. It is vital that our patients feel safe and secure while they are here, and that their presence here will remain a confidential issue. Please do not discuss your patients by name (or by any other identifying factor) except in the privacy of a classroom setting with your instructor. NEVER discuss your patients over at the Tower during lunch, on the elevators where anyone else can overhear you or in the lobby of the Parthenon Pavilion. In order to respect patient and family confidentiality, please sit near the lockers in the lobby when gathering for start of your clinical day at Parthenon. Believe me when I tell you, people are always watching you and listening to what you say so please be mindful and think before you speak!

DRESS: Guidelines for dress are to promote professionalism and safety while here. Because our patients generally wear street clothing, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between staff and patients. We have LOTS of students, case managers, social workers, etc. from outside the hospital. For safety, we need to be able to tell quickly that you are a nursing student. **You must wear your school’s lab coat for each clinical day. Please wear your NAME BADGE on your lab coat collar.** We advise that student name badges display first names only. (You will note that our staff badges also display first names only.) Please wear conservative street clothes such as skirts, dresses, slacks and rubber-soled shoes. No open toed shoes and no high heels please! **NO JEANS are permitted.** Jewelry should be minimal.

CELL PHONES ETC: Please do not bring cell phones into the hospital. If access to contact via your cell phone is needed, please put your phone on Buzz and have your clinical instructor hold the phone for you during clinical hours. Please DO NOT bring book bags, purses, etc. into the hospital as there is limited space in which to store your belongings. Instead please lock your belongings etc in your car after removing the essentials you needed for your clinical day.

BOUNDARIES: I am sure your instructor will cover this with you, but you must be especially mindful of the fact that you are dealing with psychiatrically ill patients who may have poor (or no) boundaries. Therefore, it is up to YOU to be the one to set and stick to, your professional boundaries with all patients. If there is ever any question in your mind as to whether or not he/she (or YOU) has crossed a boundary, please discuss it with your teacher.

ASSIGNMENTS: Our goal is to have no more than two students assigned to any unit at any given time. We host clinical experiences for many different nursing schools. We ask instructors to work together to maintain the guideline of two students per unit. For safety and quality patient care, the decision about whether or not and how many students to accept on any unit is made by the charge nurse. At times, the charge nurse may feel the unit milieu is not appropriate to host students. Sometimes units are closed for construction or are combined. Sometimes there is a slight overlap in the timing of clinical rotations here. In these cases, I must ask instructors to work together with one another and with the charge nurses to provide appropriate unit assignments.

ATTENDING GROUPS: You are welcome to attend treatment mall or unit based groups with your patient. Please discourage the patient from having side conversations with you during the group. Instructors, as a courtesy, please touch base with group facilitators before the group start time to be sure the group can accommodate your students. Please arrive for group **BEFORE** the start time. Please remain in group until the facilitator excuses the patients from group.

WHERE TO REVIEW CHARTS: Please do not sit in the CHART ROOMS to review patient charts. Physician dictation and informal interdisciplinary treatment planning discussions take place in these small rooms. Unit chart rooms are located directly behind the nursing station. Please get the chart you need, tell the charge nurse you have it, and then find a seat, say, in the unit's staff lounge. You are more than welcome in ANY of the staff lounges. By the way, feel free to help yourself to coffee, etc. while you are our guest here.

MEETING SPACE: Space is very limited so instructors will need to be flexible regarding meeting spaces. I expect challenges related to meeting spaces this upcoming semester so we ask for your patience in this regard. If you begin working in a space and staff enter that space for a meeting or group please politely and quickly gather your belongings and move to a new location.

MEALS: We are sorry we cannot accommodate you in our cafeteria. Please talk with your clinical instructor about meal plans. The nearby Food Court in the Tower offers lunch or dinner options to include Subway, Dairy Queen, pizza etc. are located there for your convenience. It may be more convenient to bring your food with you. You are welcome to use refrigerators and microwaves in the staff lounge areas.

Finally – ENJOY YOURSELF! Take advantage of a great learning experience. Be nice, be professional and hopefully, the staff will be the same to you! (Let your instructor know if this is not the case, and it will be addressed immediately). Let me know if I can help you in any way. I have included my contact information below. By the way, we are always on the look out for potential employees from our nursing classes! If you are interested in employment - now or in the future - please feel free contact me.

Sincerely,
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