Clinical skills for Nursing Students

It is important to note that local policies and procedures must always be followed and that these will always take precedence over the advice offered below.

It is also important that students are properly prepared before undertaking any aspect of direct patient care and receive appropriate supervision

Criteria for Assessment guidelines

Guided participation in care and performing with increasing confidence and competence Active participation in care with minimal guidance and performing with increased confidence and competence

Practising independently with minimal supervision and leading and coordinating care with confidence

Part 1

Part 2

Part 3

Code - Yes - if Trust/ area policy allow

No - students must never undertake this skill

Part of the stage onwards - Only following completion of CSU session

Clinical skill		Can student nurses undertake	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3/4
Administration of medication:	Oral medication	Yes (except when prescribed on a PGD or chemotherapy)	Yes	Yes	Yes
(under direct supervision of a registrant)	Connect IV medication / infusions	Yes (never controlled medication)	No	No	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill

	Prepare IV medication / infusions Subcutaneous or intramuscular medication	Yes Yes (never controlled medication)	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill Yes	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill
	Controlled drugs	No (Trust specific policy) - some areas may have policies that allow students to sign only where counter signatures are provided. Please note: students are encouraged to observe and assist with controlled medication to support learning - Direct supervision and Trust policy should be followed	No	No	No
	Immunisations	Yes (except when prescribed on a PGD)	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill
Cannulation & Venepuncture	Insertion of cannula	Yes in accordance with local policy - only following completion of training in CSU	No	Yes	Yes
	Removal of cannula	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Venepuncture	Yes in accordance with local policy - only following completion of training in CSU	No	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill

				skill as some area policies do not allow	as some area policies do not allow
	Central venous/ arterial access (i.e Hickman line, PICC line, central line)	No	No	No	No
Cervical Screening	-	No	No	No	No
Compression Bandaging	-	No	No	No	No
Nasogastic / Ryles tube insertion	-	Yes - in accordance with local policy & only following completion of CSU session (prior to KANP2)	Yes - only when CSU session complete & in accordance with local policy	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill	Yes - check placement policy before undertaking skill
Removal of staples / sutures	-	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Insertion of Urinary Catheters	Urethral catheterisation	Yes - in accordance with local policy & only following completion of CSU session (prior to KANP2)	Yes - only when CSU session complete & in accordance with local policy	Yes	Yes
	Suprapubic catheterisation	No	No	No	No

Students should note that where they are unable to directly perform certain nursing skills or tasks, much learning can be achieved through observation, discussion, and reflection. Where this is the case it is helpful to understand what learning you will need to demonstrate to your Practice Assessor or Supervisor to achieve your proficiency sign off. This may be achieved via simulation, accessing a session with the Clinical Teaching Fellows or simulation with your Practice Assessor or Supervisor, forexample.

If you have any additional questions please discuss this in the first instance with your Practice Assessor, Practice Supervisor who will be able	to
offer advice in line with local policy and procedure.	

If you require any further support, please contact the Practice Learning Link Team at the University dohs-pll@york.ac.uk who will be happy to offer advice.