NURSING ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Health and Safety Questions and Answers

Revised February 2012

6000 West Olive Avenue
Glendale, AZ 95302
Health & Safety Q & A
Every student entering the Nursing Assistant program must meet all Health and Safety requirements to maintain enrollment in the program. Students will meet these requirements by providing a completed and signed Health and Safety Documentation Checklist with all required accompanying documentation and the Health Care Provider Signature Form to the Nursing Department as directed.

Why are nursing assistant students required to enter the program with immunizations?
Because students are exposed to potentially communicable diseases and may be caring for patients at risk for acquiring infectious diseases from caregivers, health care agencies require all caregivers to comply with the standards set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Why do I need a physician’s exam before starting my nursing assistant program?
A physician’s exam is required to ensure that nursing assistant students are able to perform a number of physical activities in the clinical portion of the program. At a minimum, students will be required to lift patients, stand for several hours at a time and perform bending activities. Students who have a chronic illness or condition must be maintained on current treatment and be able to perform direct patient care. The clinical nursing experience also places students under considerable mental and emotional stress as they undertake responsibilities and duties impacting patients’ lives. Students must be able to demonstrate rational and appropriate behavior under stressful conditions. Individuals should give careful consideration to the mental and physical demands of the program prior to making application.

What are the requirements for nursing assistant students regarding CPR/BLS?
All students working in any healthcare setting must be prepared to perform the essential skills of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), also known as Basic Life Support (BLS) for healthcare providers. It is important to be certain that the class you take is a class designed for health care providers, not a layperson CPR class, and that you do hands-on performance of skills in your course. If you take CPR online, you must provide documentation that you also were proficient in hands-on skills demonstration of CPR.

What are the Nursing Assistant program requirements for immunizations?
All students in the Nursing Assistant program are required to submit documentation of the following:
1. **Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR):** Must submit documentation of positive IgG titers showing immunity to rubeola (measles), mumps, and rubella or 2 immunizations. If you have proof of MMR immunizations, please submit documentation of all immunizations.
2. **Varicella (chickenpox):** Must submit documentation of positive IgG varicella titer or two immunizations.
3. **Hepatitis B:** Must submit proof of the series of 3 vaccinations for Hepatitis B OR IgG titer showing immunity to Hepatitis B.
4. **Tetanus/Diptheria/Pertussis (TDap):** Must submit proof of TDap immunization within the past 10 years.

What are the guidelines for Tuberculosis Skin Testing (TST)?
All students entering the Nursing Assistant program are required to submit documentation of a negative tuberculosis status. Documentation may include a negative 1 step or 2 step TST If you have ever received a TST in the past, you are required to get a 1 step TST before beginning the nursing assistant program. If you have never had a TST in the past, you are required to receive a 2 step TST. Skin tests should be read by someone who has special training or has much experience in evaluating results, either by the same person who administered the test or at least at the same facility where the test was administered. Nursing Assistant program
will not accept a TST administered by one facility and read by another. Nursing instructors are forbidden by policy from reading TSTs.

**What constitutes a current TST?**
A TST is considered current if no more than 365 days have elapsed since the administration of the test. For a 2-step TST, the 365 day time interval starts the day the second test is administered.

**What constitutes a 2-step TST?**
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the first test be administered and then evaluated (read) 48-72 hours later, no earlier and no later. A minimum of 7 days after the administration of the first test, the second test can be administered. The second test is evaluated 48-72 hours later.

**What are the minimum and maximum intervals between administration of step 1 and step 2 of a TST?**
The minimum interval between administration of step 1 and step 2 is seven days. The maximum interval between step 1 and step 2 is three weeks after the first TST was read.

**If a student waits 1 day past the expiration of their 2-step TST what do they need to do?**
In this case, the student must have a 2 step TB skin test performed.

**Can a chest x-ray be substituted for a TST?**
A chest x-ray cannot be substituted for a TB skin test. A chest x-ray is only accepted as a follow-up to a positive TB skin test.

**What are the CDC Guidelines for adult immunizations?**
For further information, refer to the Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule at [http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/downloads/adult/mmwr-adult-schedule.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/downloads/adult/mmwr-adult-schedule.pdf)