

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

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## WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

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### **Clinical Experiences: Assumption of Risk**

Clinical experiences (practicum, clinical rotations, supervised practice, and simulations) are a required component of academic programs at William Paterson University, School of Nursing. These experiences allow students to practice skills and techniques learned in didactic, laboratory and clinical courses as well as develop critical thinking skills that are important for health care providers. Clinical experiences occur in hospitals, clinics, schools, community organizations, and other appropriate settings where students can interact with patients and clients.

Sites selected for students' clinical experiences are required to take reasonable and appropriate measures to protect students' health and safety in the clinical setting. Faculty will develop appropriate policies and procedures relating to student safety and prevention of exposure to disease. Students will have access to appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), during their clinical experiences. Students will receive training related to potential hazards and prevention techniques. Students have the responsibility to report any potential exposures to the supervisor at their site as well as their WPU faculty member.

However, even with such measures, there are risks inherent to clinical experiences. Potential risks of completing clinical experiences include, but are not limited to:

- Exposure to infectious diseases through blood or other body fluids via skin, mucus membranes or parenteral contact
- Exposure to infectious diseases through droplet or air-borne transmission
- Hazardous chemical exposure
- Radiation exposure
- Environmental hazards, including slippery floors and electrical hazards
- Physical injuries, including back injuries
- Psychosocial hazards
- Offensive, inappropriate, or dangerous conduct by patients or clients, including violence, harassment, and sexual harassment

These risks can lead to serious complications, trauma, bodily injury or death.

## **SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19**

COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, is a highly contagious disease. COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily by coming into close contact with a person who has COVID-19 and may also spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching one's mouth, nose or eyes.

Most people with COVID-19 will have mild symptoms, however, some people can become severely ill. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that individuals with certain underlying health conditions are at higher risk of developing severe complications from COVID-19. These medical conditions include: chronic lung disease, asthma, conditions that cause a person to be immunocompromised, obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and liver disease.

Much remains unknown about COVID-19. Further research may reveal additional information regarding the disease, including other means of transmission and health complications. According to the current CDC guidelines, the best way to prevent COVID-19 is through vaccination including a booster dose. It is also evident that fully vaccinated individuals, who contract COVID 19, manifest less severe symptoms and fewer complications.

Participating in clinical experiences, which is a significant part of the nursing curriculum, may increase the risk of contracting COVID-19 even when wearing recommended PPE and being vaccinated. The risks of contracting COVID 19 cannot be completely eliminated at this time.

**Credit: This document was adopted from the University of Oklahoma, Oxley College of Health Sciences with modifications.**

**Revised: January 18, 2022**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK FORM

I certify that I have carefully read and understand this document. I acknowledge and understand that, as explained in this document, my degree program requires the participation in clinical experiences, and that such participation carries risks that cannot be eliminated. I fully understand these risks.

I understand that it is my responsibility to follow all instructor and supervisor instructions and take all available precautions so that the risk of exposure is minimized. I will follow all program specific information relating to prevention of diseases.

Knowing these risks, I certify that I desire to pursue my chosen degree program, including the participation in clinical experiences. I expressly agree and promise to accept and assume all risks associated with doing so. I am voluntarily agreeing to be bound by this document's terms.

If for any reason, I do not agree to the terms of this document, I will not be able to continue with the nursing program at William Paterson University.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student (print name)

If Student is under 18 years of age, Parent/Guardian must also sign:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian (print name)