Outline of Instruction

Division: Health Sciences  
Area: Respiratory Therapy

Course Number: RTH 221  
Course Name: Respiratory Care Clinical Practice IV

Prerequisite: RTH 216 - Perinatal/Pediatric Management and  
RTH 211 - Respiratory Care Clinical Practice III

Corequisite: 

Hours Required:  
Class: 0  
Clinic: 240  
Credits: 5

Course Description/Purpose

This clinical course provides a varied experience for students who are about to graduate. A major emphasis will be in assisting with the pulmonary management of neonatal patients on mechanical ventilation. Other rotations will be in a variety of advanced diagnostic laboratories and alternate site venues where respiratory therapists are employed. In addition, weekly seminars will be held on campus to facilitate student learning.

Major Units

1. Neonatal Critical Care
2. Advanced Diagnostic Labs (Pulmonary Functions, Sleep Disorders, Cardiodynamics)
3. Alternate Site Respiratory Care (Home Care, Rehabilitation, Nursing Homes, Long-term Care Facilities)

Educational/Course Outcomes

Student learning will be assessed by a variety of methods, including, but not limited to, quizzes and tests, journals, written patient assessments, projects, laboratory/clinical exercises and examinations, simulations, homework assignments, and instructor observations.

Cognitive  
Each student will be expected to:
- maintain adequate levels of theoretical knowledge, skill, and effective behavior as outlined in RTH 111, 121, and 211 objectives;
- describe, explain, state theory of operation and perform or demonstrate set-up and usage activities with all equipment listed on the assigned equipment list;
- cite indications, contraindications, benefits, hazards, and negative side-effects associated with all therapies applied during this experience.
- observe and explain theoretical basis and application of the following advanced PFT procedures: body plethysmography, FRC by helium dilution, DLCO, pre-post bronchodilator vs. methacholine challenge, flow-volume loops, Qs/Qt, and Vd/Vt;
- observe and explain theoretical basis and application of procedures associated with alternate site respiratory care including home care, pulmonary rehabilitation, subacute and long-term ventilatory care.
Performance Each student will be expected to:

- perform, according to clinical proficiency and task analysis guidelines, therapy cognate skills including: reporting, chart evaluations, pre and post-therapy patient assessment, therapy evaluation techniques, responding to therapy complications, charting, and others as assigned;
- perform in a neonatal environment, according to clinical proficiency and task analysis guidelines, the following therapies and skills: bronchopulmonary hygiene therapy, blood gas sampling and analysis, care of artificial airways, and others skills as assigned;
- perform, according to clinical proficiency and task analysis guidelines, the following procedures in neonatal ICUs: routine ventilator checks, ventilator circuit change, and ventilator preparation and application;
- perform or demonstrate using neonatal patients or models, according to clinical proficiency guidelines, management of CDP therapy and demonstrate requisite performance variables listed in the task analysis;
- perform activities for advanced diagnostic and alternate site venue rotations according to objectives provided by program personnel;
- practice concepts of patient and professional intercommunication skills, and respiratory safety techniques while engaged in all hospital activities.

Attitudinal Each student will be expected to:

- display acceptable fluency in professional attitudes, professional medical ethics, and concern for patient’s rights as prescribed in the Respiratory Therapy program’s Clinical Information and Policies manual.