

## **Patient Care Associate (PCA) Orientation Programs**

To be eligible for a PCA position, an applicant must be a certified nursing assistant (CNA) or a nursing student enrolled in a professional nursing program who has completed at least one clinical rotation. In addition, nursing students must submit an instructor-completed skills checklist and a copy of their current CPR card. All Required Competencies on the instructor-completed Nursing Student Competency Checklist must be met in the simulated laboratory or clinical setting to be eligible for a PCA position.

- PCAs who work on general care units must complete a **three week** orientation program.
- PCAs who work in critical care areas must complete a **five week** orientation program (this five-week program includes the generic PCA program).
- Nursing students who are hired to be PCAs must complete a **three day** orientation program (may also attend the first 3 days of the generic PCA program).
- All PCA orientation classes are held in Founders 325 classroom. Classroom instruction and skill lab practice takes place during the day shift. Clinical practice time supervised by staff nurse preceptors can be held during any hours at the discretion of the nursing director.

### **The three-week generic PCA program consists of:**

- 4 days of didactic classes with simulated laboratory practice taught and supervised by a clinical educator from The Norman Knight Nursing Center.
- 11 days of clinical practice supervised by a staff nurse preceptor.

### **Critical care PCAs must complete all competencies of the generic PCA program and in addition:**

- Attend one additional day of class and simulated laboratory practice.
- Complete the critical care clinical practice supervised by a staff nurse preceptor, which is negotiated directly with the hiring nursing director.

### **Nursing students who are hired to be PCAs:**

- Complete three class days.
- Must complete a Nursing Student Competency Checklist and submit a copy of their current CPR card.
- Work with a staff nurse preceptor after classes are completed to finish the competencies.
- Can attend portions of the generic PCA program or a program that has been scheduled to specifically address nursing student PCAs.

- Students hired into critical care areas must complete the critical care clinical practice supervised by a staff nurse preceptor, which is negotiated directly with the hiring nursing director.

**THE GENERIC PCA CLASSROOM ORIENTATION SCHEDULES FOR 2009 :**

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| • 1/13-1/16 | • 7/14-7/17   |
| • 2/3-2/6   | • 8/25-8/28   |
| • 3/17-3/20 | • 9/15-9/18   |
| • 4/21-4/24 | • 10/27-10/30 |
| • 5/12-5/15 | • 11/10-11/13 |
| • 6/16-6/19 | • 12/8-12/11  |

**THE STUDENT NURSE PCA ORIENTATION SCHEDULES FOR 2009:**

- 12/30, 31/08 and 1/2/09
- 3/4-3/6
- 5/6-5/8
- 6/30-7/2

**THE CRITICAL CARE PCA (CCPCA) ORIENTATION SCHEDULES FOR 2009:**

CCPCAs must complete the classroom portions of the generic program prior to entering the critical care portion of training.

- |        |         |
|--------|---------|
| • 1/30 | • 11/9  |
| • 3/16 | • 11/23 |
| • 4/27 | • 12/21 |
| • 5/26 |         |
| • 6/29 |         |
| • 7/27 |         |
| • 9/8  |         |