

Student Nursing Tips

1. Don't be nervous! Piedmont Hospital patients are in contact with students throughout the organization in nursing, respiratory, physical therapy, and even work with medical students and physician assistant students.
2. If you don't know, say you don't know. All clinical rotations are meant to be a learning experience. We are here to help you learn and apply new knowledge to practice.
3. Be proactive.
4. Be as helpful as you can.
5. Don't be offended if the nurse or physician is unable to discuss with you a particular question or situation. There are times when patient care must come first especially in life-threatening situations and those involved in trying to save a life are focusing on the patient. Ask for a debriefing session when the time is right – after the crisis has resolved.
6. Please be on time and arrive for all scheduled shifts. If you are unable to attend a clinical day, please contact your clinical instructor and/or your preceptor.
7. Cell Phone Policy - Our staff should not be using any non-work related portable electronic devices on the nursing units. Cell phones can be used during breaks in non-patient areas like the snack bar or cafeteria. Please do not go to the waiting areas or hallways.
8. Facebook/Twitter/MySpace – do not post any patient information, hospital information or basically anything else about your clinical experience at Piedmont Hospital. Social networks whether online or in person are not appropriate venues to discuss patient care. Would you want those taking care of you or your family to discuss your care on the internet or at a restaurant? Of course, Piedmont is appreciative of positive feedback and hopes that you will relay to the community about the high level of service and quality care our staff provides! General hospital information is ok to talk about.
9. Be resourceful and mindful of expenses. Patient supplies and tests are expensive! We understand you will have those oops moments where you need a second round of supplies, but please be careful!
10. Listen to your patients. They may not always be right, but in most cases can tell you what that little blue pill is they are supposed to take!
11. Talk to your patients. Research and understand a test, procedure or medication before discussing with the patient. If they ask you a question you don't know the answer to – tell them you don't know and find out the answer.
12. Be safe! Use good body mechanics and safety measures. Piedmont Hospital wants to ensure safe patient and employee care. If you do get hurt, tell someone when it happens – don't wait!
13. Know your environment – find the code button, the bathroom and the staff break area. Familiarize yourself with the surroundings.
14. Do your own work. Our staff is here to help, but not do the work for you. If you don't know how to find something – ask! Write down the answer if you have to.
15. You will get lost! Remember where you parked your car and don't be afraid to ask for directions!
16. Live the Piedmont Promise!